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Automated versus non-automated weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation for critically ill adults and children (Review)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

HEADER	1
ABSTRACT	1
PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY	2
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FOR THE MAIN COMPARISON	4
BACKGROUND	7
OBJECTIVES	8
METHODS	8
RESULTS	12
Figure 1.	13
Figure 2.	15
Figure 3.	16
Figure 4.	18
Figure 5.	19
Figure 6.	21
DISCUSSION	21
AUTHORS' CONCLUSIONS	23
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	23
REFERENCES	23
CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDIES	28
DATA AND ANALYSES	64
Analysis 1.1. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 1 Total weaning duration by study population.	66
Analysis 1.2. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 2 Total weaning duration by automated system.	68
Analysis 1.3. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 3 Total weaning duration by non-automated strategy (control arm).	69
Analysis 1.4. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 4 Randomization to first extubation.	71
Analysis 1.5. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 5 Ventilation duration by study population.	72
Analysis 1.6. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 6 Ventilation duration of by automated system.	73
Analysis 1.7. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 7 Ventilation duration of by non-automated strategy (control arm).	74
Analysis 1.8. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 8 Intubation to randomization.	75
Analysis 1.9. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 9 Secondary outcome 5.1: mortality.	76
Analysis 1.10. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 10 Hospital length of stay.	77
Analysis 1.11. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 11 ICU length of stay by ICU population.	78
Analysis 1.12. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 12 ICU length of stay by automated system.	79
Analysis 1.13. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 13 Reintubation.	80
Analysis 1.14. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 14 Self-extubation.	81
Analysis 1.15. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 15 Non invasive ventilation.	82

Analysis 1.16. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 16 Prolonged mechanical ventilation.	83
Analysis 1.17. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 17 Tracheostomy.	84
Analysis 2.1. Comparison 2 Sensitivity analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, un-logged data duration of weaning, Outcome 1 Weaning duration by ICU population.	85
Analysis 2.2. Comparison 2 Sensitivity analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, un-logged data duration of weaning, Outcome 2 Weaning duration by automated system [hours].	86
Analysis 2.3. Comparison 2 Sensitivity analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, un-logged data duration of weaning, Outcome 3 Weaning duration by non-automated strategy (control arm).	87
Analysis 2.4. Comparison 2 Sensitivity analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, un-logged data duration of weaning, Outcome 4 Randomization to first extubation.	89
Analysis 2.5. Comparison 2 Sensitivity analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, un-logged data duration of weaning, Outcome 5 Ventilation duration.	90
Analysis 2.6. Comparison 2 Sensitivity analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, un-logged data duration of weaning, Outcome 6 Intubation to randomization.	91
Analysis 2.7. Comparison 2 Sensitivity analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, un-logged data duration of weaning, Outcome 7 Hospital length of stay.	92
Analysis 2.8. Comparison 2 Sensitivity analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, un-logged data duration of weaning, Outcome 8 ICU length of stay.	93
Analysis 3.1. Comparison 3 Sensitivity analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system excluding high risk of bias studies, Outcome 1 Weaning duration.	94
APPENDICES	94
WHAT'S NEW	102
HISTORY	103
CONTRIBUTIONS OF AUTHORS	103
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	104
SOURCES OF SUPPORT	104
INDEX TERMS	105

Automated versus non-automated weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation for critically ill adults and children

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ABSTRACT

Background

Automated closed loop systems may improve adaptation of mechanical support for a patient's ventilatory needs and facilitate systematic and early recognition of their ability to breathe spontaneously and the potential for discontinuation of ventilation. This review was originally published in 2013 with an update published in 2014.

Objectives

The primary objective for this review was to compare the total duration of weaning from mechanical ventilation, defined as the time from study randomization to successful extubation (as defined by study authors), for critically ill ventilated patients managed with an automated weaning system versus no automated weaning system (usual care).

Secondary objectives for this review were to determine differences in the duration of ventilation, intensive care unit (ICU) and hospital lengths of stay (LOS), mortality, and adverse events related to early or delayed extubation with the use of automated weaning systems compared to weaning in the absence of an automated weaning system.

Search methods

We searched the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL) (*The Cochrane Library* 2013, Issue 8); MEDLINE (OvidSP) (1948 to September 2013); EMBASE (OvidSP) (1980 to September 2013); CINAHL (EBSCOhost) (1982 to September 2013); and the Latin American and Caribbean Health Sciences Literature (LILACS). Relevant published reviews were sought using the Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE) and the Health Technology Assessment Database (HTA Database). We also searched the Web of Science Proceedings; conference proceedings; trial registration websites; and reference lists of relevant articles. The original search was run in August 2011, with database auto-alerts up to August 2012.

Automated versus non-automated weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation for critically ill adults and children (Review)

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Selection criteria

We included randomized controlled trials comparing automated closed loop ventilator applications to non-automated weaning strategies including non-protocolized usual care and protocolized weaning in patients over four weeks of age receiving invasive mechanical ventilation in an ICU.

Data collection and analysis

Two authors independently extracted study data and assessed risk of bias. We combined data in forest plots using random-effects modelling. Subgroup and sensitivity analyses were conducted according to a priori criteria.

Main results

We included 21 trials (19 adult, two paediatric) totaling 1676 participants (1628 adults, 48 children) in this updated review. Pooled data from 16 eligible trials reporting weaning duration indicated that automated closed loop systems reduced the geometric mean duration of weaning by 30% (95% confidence interval (CI) 13% to 45%), however heterogeneity was substantial ($I^2 = 87\%$, $P < 0.00001$). Reduced weaning duration was found with mixed or medical ICU populations (42%, 95% CI 10% to 63%) and Smartcare/PS™ (28%, 95% CI 7% to 49%) but not in surgical populations or using other systems. Automated closed loop systems reduced the duration of ventilation (10%, 95% CI 3% to 16%) and ICU LOS (8%, 95% CI 0% to 15%). There was no strong evidence of an effect on mortality rates, hospital LOS, reintubation rates, self-extubation and use of non-invasive ventilation following extubation. Prolonged mechanical ventilation > 21 days and tracheostomy were reduced in favour of automated systems (relative risk (RR) 0.51, 95% CI 0.27 to 0.95 and RR 0.67, 95% CI 0.50 to 0.90 respectively). Overall the quality of the evidence was high with the majority of trials rated as low risk.

Authors' conclusions

Automated closed loop systems may result in reduced duration of weaning, ventilation and ICU stay. Reductions are more likely to occur in mixed or medical ICU populations. Due to the lack of, or limited, evidence on automated systems other than Smartcare/PS™ and Adaptive Support Ventilation no conclusions can be drawn regarding their influence on these outcomes. Due to substantial heterogeneity in trials there is a need for an adequately powered, high quality, multi-centre randomized controlled trial in adults that excludes 'simple to wean' patients. There is a pressing need for further technological development and research in the paediatric population.

PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY

Do ventilators that manage the reduction of ventilator support (weaning) reduce the duration of weaning compared to strategies managed by clinicians?

Background and importance

Critically ill patients receiving assistance from breathing machines (ventilators) may be restored to normal breathing using clinical methods (collectively termed weaning) that require both expertise and continuous monitoring. Inefficient weaning may result in a prolonged time on a ventilator, putting patients at risk of lung injury, pneumonia and death. At times, delivery of the most effective and efficient care can be difficult due to organizational constraints. Computerized weaning systems may provide a solution to inefficient weaning methods. In this Cochrane review we evaluated if computerized weaning systems were more effective than clinical methods used by clinicians for reducing inappropriate delays in weaning, the overall duration of ventilation, and the length of intensive care unit (ICU) and hospital stays.

Findings

We identified 21 studies that provided information on a total of 1676 people including 1628 adults and 48 children. The evidence was current to 30th September 2013. Studies were conducted in people with medical reasons such as pneumonia and other infections for needing admission to ICU, people admitted following trauma, and people admitted after heart or other forms of surgery. As well, various commercially available computerized weaning systems were studied. We found that computerized weaning systems resulted in a reduced weaning duration as well as reduced overall time on the ventilator and stay in an ICU. The average time required for a person to be weaned off the ventilator was reduced by 30%. The overall time on the ventilator was reduced by 10% and the length of stay in ICU by 8%. Not all studies demonstrated these reductions. Studies conducted only in people admitted to ICU following surgery did not demonstrate reductions in weaning, overall time on a ventilator or ICU stay.

Limitations

Because of differences in the methods and results of some studies included in this review, further large scale research is warranted. There is also a need for more studies that examine the effect of computerized weaning systems in children.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FOR THE MAIN COMPARISON *[Explanation]*

Automated compared with non-automated weaning for critically ill adults and children						
Patient or population: critically ill adults and children requiring weaning from mechanical ventilation						
Settings: intensive care units						
Intervention: automated closed loop control of weaning						
Comparison: clinician-led protocolized or non-protocolized usual weaning practices						
Outcomes	Illustrative comparative risks* (95% CI)		Relative effect (95% CI)	No of Participants (studies)	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Comments
	Assumed risk	Corresponding risk				
	Non-automated weaning	Automated weaning				
Total duration of weaning defined as study randomization to successful extubation (hours)	^a Mean 24 hours ^b Mean 62.4 hours	Mean 16.8 hours Mean 43.7 hours	Geometric mean difference -30% (-13% to -45%)	1246 participants (16 trials)	⊕⊕○○ low	We detected substantial heterogeneity explained only in part by differences in study population, automated closed loop system used, and the comparator arm. We also detected a wide confidence interval suggesting imprecision
Total duration of ventilation defined as intubation or commencement of ventilation in ICU to successful extubation (hours)	^a Mean 96 hours ^b Mean 182.4 hours	Mean 86.4 hours Mean 164.2 hours	Geometric mean difference -10% (-3% to -16%)	1248 participants (14 trials)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ high	

ICU length of stay (days)	^a Mean 8 days ^b Mean 8 days (survivors) Mean 7 days (non-survivors)	Mean 7.4 days Mean 7.4 days (survivors) Mean 6.4 days (non-survivors)	Geometric mean difference -8% (0 to -15%)	1339 participants (13 trials)	⊕⊕⊕○ moderate	We detected substantial heterogeneity which was explained only in part by differences in study population, automated closed loop system used, and the comparator arm
Hospital length of stay (days)	^a Mean 17 days ^b Mean 17 days (survivors) Mean 11.5 days (non-survivors)	Mean 15.3 days Mean 15.3 days (survivors) Mean 10.3 days (non-survivors)	Geometric mean difference -10% (-19% to 2% increase)	749 participants (7 trials)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ high	
Mortality (ICU, hospital) (days)	^a ICU 31%, hospital 37% (adults) ^b ICU 15%, hospital 18% (children)	ICU 38% hospital 35% (adults) ICU 18% hospital 17% (children)	Risk ratio ICU 1.23 (0.58 to 2.60) Hospital 0.95 (0.62 to 1.45)	1128 participants (12 trials)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ high	
Reintubation rate	^a 11% (adults) ^b 10% (children)	9% (adults) 8% (children)	Risk ratio 0.80 (0.61 to 1.05)	1081 participants (13 trials)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ high	

*The basis for the **assumed risk** (e.g. the mean control group risk) is provided in footnotes. The **corresponding risk** is based on the assumed risk in the comparison group and the **relative effect** of the intervention.

CI: Confidence interval

GRADE Working Group grades of evidence

High quality: Further research is very unlikely to change our confidence in the estimate of effect.

Moderate quality: Further research is likely to have an important impact on our confidence in the estimate of effect and may change the estimate.

Low quality: Further research is very likely to have an important impact on our confidence in the estimate of effect and is likely to change the estimate.

Very low quality: We are very uncertain about the estimate.

^a Assumed risk for adults is derived from large international cohort study of mechanical ventilation and weaning by Esteban and colleagues (Esteban 2008). Reported medians are used as an approximation for the means used for illustrative comparisons of all continuous variables.

^b Assumed risk for children is derived from international cohort study of mechanical ventilation and weaning by Farias and colleagues (Farias 2004). The mean duration of weaning and ventilation are reported in the paper and have been used in this illustrative comparison. Reported medians for survivors and non-survivors are used as an approximation for the mean ICU and hospital length of stay used for illustrative comparisons.

BACKGROUND

Description of the condition

Serious physiological and psychological sequelae are associated with protracted use of invasive mechanical ventilation, necessitating efficient processes to safely reduce and remove ventilator support, termed weaning. Physiological complications include ventilator associated pneumonia, large airway injury and ventilator associated lung injury. Mechanical ventilation can damage both injured and healthy lungs by perpetuating alveolar and systemic inflammatory response systems (Kuipers 2011). Psychological sequelae include post-traumatic stress disorder (Cuthbertson 2004; Jones 2001; Jubran 2010a); anxiety and depression (Jubran 2010b); delirium (Ely 2001a; Girard 2010); and cognitive deficits (Hopkins 2005; Jackson 2011).

Weaning may account for more than 40% of the duration of mechanical ventilation depending on the definition of when weaning commences (Esteban 2008; Rose 2009). Greater than 50% of critically ill ventilated children will be extubated within 48 hours, however the remainder frequently require prolonged mechanical ventilation (Newth 2009). Adult patients that require prolonged mechanical ventilation account for 40% of intensive care unit (ICU) bed days and 50% of ICU costs (Carson 2006). Evidence-based consensus guidelines for weaning, published in 2001 (MacIntyre 2001) and 2007 (Boles 2007), emphasize the importance of preventing unnecessary delays to the weaning process. The same tenets of weaning apply to children and adults (Leclerc 2010). Mortality increases as the duration of ventilation is extended (Esteban 2008) and extubation is delayed (Coplin 2000). Determining weaning readiness and the most appropriate weaning method have traditionally been based on clinician 'judgement and experience' (Sahn 1973), resulting in variable practice. Tools such as weaning protocols and automated closed loop systems have been developed to facilitate systematic and early recognition of a patient's ability to breathe spontaneously and so the potential for discontinuation of ventilation. These tools may reduce variation in practice and improve efficiency by removing subjectivity and applying objectivity (Murtagh 2007). A previous Cochrane review evaluated the efficacy of protocolized versus non-protocolized weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation (Blackwood 2010a). Despite evidence indicating the deleterious effects of unnecessary prolongation of mechanical ventilation, weaning continues to be delayed (Ely 1996; Esteban 2008; Kollef 1997). Recent surveys indicate inconsistent implementation of weaning protocols (Burns 2009a; Santschi 2007) and infrequent adoption of automated closed loop systems (Blackwood 2010b), suggesting a lack of consensus in their utility.

Description of the intervention

Weaning traditionally occurs via clinician-directed adjustments to the level of breathing support provided by the ventilator, which culminates in a spontaneous breathing trial (SBT) comprising either low level pressure support or a T-piece trial. Automated closed loop systems may improve the adaptation of mechanical support to the ventilatory needs of patients. These systems continuously monitor changes in ventilation, interpret real-time physiological changes, and adapt ventilation in response to these changes (Lellouche 2009a). Complex closed loop systems consist of an input that activates the system, an output, which is the product of the system, and a protocol linking the two (Chatburn 2011). Several systems have been developed and are now commercially available. Examples of commercially automated systems or modes using complex closed loops include Mandatory Minute Ventilation (MMV), Adaptive Support Ventilation (ASV) (Hamilton Medical AG, Bonaduz, Switzerland), SmartCare™/PS (Dräger Medical, Lübeck, Germany), Proportional Assist Ventilation (PAV), Neurally Adjusted Ventilatory Assist (NAVA) (Maquet, Solna, Sweden), and Automode® (Maquet, Solna, Sweden).

How the intervention might work

Automated closed loop systems have been proposed to optimize decision-making, reduce variation amongst clinicians, and to assist with interpretation of clinical information (Morris 2002). Through continuous monitoring and real-time interventions, automated weaning applications theoretically provide improved adaptation of ventilatory support to the patients' needs when compared to clinician-directed weaning. Automation of the weaning process has the potential to reduce avoidable delays in weaning as it is less reliant on clinician recognition of changes in the patient's weaning status, which in turn is influenced by clinician availability, work load, and unit adoption of processes of care such as weaning protocols and guidelines.

Why it is important to do this review

There is a pressing imperative to identify efficiencies in the weaning process to prevent associated morbidity and mortality, and also to offer solutions to constraints in the provision of critical care services. The number of patients receiving mechanical ventilation is increasing and is predicted to continue to increase due to improved patient survival and an aging population (Needham 2006; Zilberberg 2012). The cost of providing care to these patients is substantial (Wunsch 2010). This increased demand is occurring alongside a reduced supply of healthcare professionals qualified and skilled in the management of mechanical ventilation and its weaning (Fink 2006; Zolnierrek 2010). If efficacious, automated weaning applications could enable management of weaning despite predicted staffing shortages.

In the Cochrane review comparing protocolized weaning to usual care (Blackwood 2010a) it was evident that trials of automated systems were becoming more frequent. Compared to other weaning methods, automated weaning applications have been shown to either reduce the duration of mechanical ventilation (Lellouche 2006; Petter 2003; Sulzer 2001) or have no effect (Dongelmans 2009; Rose 2008). Automated weaning applications have also been shown to be well tolerated in the paediatric population (Jouvet, 2007). Given the increasing availability of these applications, and the moderate number of trials with discordant results, there is a need to provide consumers, clinicians and policy makers with evidence of their effectiveness and their safety.

A Cochrane systematic review comparing the effectiveness of automated weaning and SBT systems with non-automated weaning in postoperative adults identified one high quality trial of SmartCare™/PS reporting no effect on ventilation discontinuation time (Burns 2014). Another review specific to SmartCare™/PS is underway for all critically ill adults (Burns 2010). Given that other automated systems are used in adult and paediatric populations, a review evaluating the effectiveness of all systems is warranted in both populations.

OBJECTIVES

The primary objective for this review was to compare the total duration of weaning from mechanical ventilation, defined as the time from study randomization to successful extubation (as defined by study authors), for critically ill ventilated patients managed with an automated weaning system versus no automated weaning system (usual care).

Secondary objectives for this review were to determine differences in the duration of ventilation, ICU and hospital lengths of stay (LOS), mortality, and adverse events related to early or delayed extubation with the use of automated weaning systems compared to weaning in the absence of an automated weaning system.

METHODS

Criteria for considering studies for this review

Types of studies

We included randomized controlled trials (RCTs) that compared automated closed loop ventilator applications to non-automated weaning strategies including standard or usual care (as described by the authors) and protocolized weaning (as described by the authors).

Types of participants

We included patients over four weeks of age receiving invasive mechanical ventilation in a high intensity care setting. We included adults and children as the same tenets of weaning apply to children and adults (Leclerc 2010).

Types of interventions

In our search strategy we included all automated ventilator modes and modalities that aim to reduce the level of support provided by the ventilator based on continuous monitoring of changes in the patient tolerance and interpretation of real-time physiological changes. Several commercially available examples are described below.

1. Smartcare/PS™ (Dräger Medical, Lübeck, Germany) performs closed loop control of pressure support (increases, decreases, or leaves it unchanged) in response to data on the patient's current respiratory status (respiratory rate, tidal volume (V_T), and end-tidal carbon dioxide ($ETCO_2$)) and its time-course to maintain the patient in a 'respiratory zone of comfort'. The SmartCare/PS™ system divides weaning into three phases: 1. stabilizing the patient within the respiratory zone of comfort; 2. decreasing pressure support without the patient leaving the comfort zone; 3. testing for extubation readiness by monitoring the patient at the lowest level of pressure support. As opposed to other systems that make breath by breath changes, Smartcare/PS™ changes settings every couple of minutes.

2. Adaptive support ventilation (ASV) (Hamilton Medical, Bonaduz, Switzerland) is a closed loop controlled mode of ventilation that adjusts inspiratory pressure and mandatory breath rate on a breath by breath basis to maintain a preset minimum minute ventilation with an optimal respiratory pattern (Sulzer 2001). Ideal body weight, percentage of minute ventilation desired, and maximal inspiratory pressure are selected by the clinician on initiation of ASV. Following assessment of the patient's respiratory compliance and resistance via five test breaths, ASV is delivered as pressure-controlled ventilation (PCV) and calculates optimal tidal volume and respiratory rate targets using the Otis formula (Otis 1950) and based on the pre-set minimum minute ventilation, theoretical dead space calculated from the ideal body weight, and the expiratory time constant. When the patient makes an inspiratory effort, ASV switches from PCV to pressure support ventilation (PSV). Pressure support is continuously adapted to the patient's respiratory rate and V_T to achieve the desired minute ventilation.

3. Automode (Siemens, Solna, Sweden) uses an algorithm to switch from a controlled mode, for example PCV, to a support mode such as PSV based on detection of patient triggering of two consecutive breaths. The mode is switched from support to control when the patient experiences prolonged apnoea (> 12 seconds) (Roth 2001). Other possible mode switches are from volume controlled ventilation to volume support ventilation (VSV) or from pressure regulated volume control to VSV.

4. Proportional assist ventilation (PAV⁺) automatically adjusts airway pressure based on measurement of compliance and resistance throughout the inspiratory cycle to maintain an appropriate degree of support. There are no set targets for pressure, volume or flow, rather airway pressure is increased or decreased in proportion to patient effort via a positive feedback control using respiratory elastance and resistance as feedback signals (Branson 2004). The patient's respiratory drive determines the respiratory rate and inspiratory time.

5. Mandatory minute ventilation (MMV) (Dräger Medical, Lübeck, Germany) uses closed loop control of the mandatory breath rate while considering the patient's spontaneous breath rate based on a clinician predetermined minute ventilation. All other ventilator parameters are clinician selected. The mandatory breath rate is variable, dependent on the patient's respiratory drive. Patients able to breath spontaneously above the predetermined minute ventilation essentially receive PSV, patients experiencing apnoea receive controlled ventilation.

6. Proportional pressure support (PPS) (Dräger Medical, Lübeck, Germany) is based on the same principals as PAV. In conventional PSV, pressure support is delivered as a fixed pressure during each inspiratory phase. In PPS, pressure support is provided proportionately to the work of breathing that alters due to changes in airway resistance and lung compliance.

7. Neurally adjusted ventilatory assist (NAVA) (Maquet, Solna, Sweden) delivers partial ventilatory support via a feedback loop generated through monitoring of neural inspiratory activity using continuous oesophageal recording of the diaphragmatic electromyogram. Ventilatory support is delivered in proportion to the signal's intensity and is cycled on and off according to its time course (Schmidt 2010).

8. Intellivent-ASV[®] (Hamilton Medical, Rhäzüns, Switzerland) is a relatively new extension of ASV that uses closed loop control to adjust minute ventilation based on the ET_{CO}₂ and oxygenation by automatically adjusting the fraction of inspired oxygen (Fi_O₂) and positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP) in combination based on the acute respiratory distress syndrome network (ARDSnet) PEEP-Fi_O₂ table (Arnall 2012).

9. Mandatory rate ventilation (MRV) (Taema-Horus Ventilator® Air Liquide, France) uses closed loop control to adjust pressure support based on a respiratory rate target. The ventilator compares the average respiratory rate over four respiratory cycles to the target. If the average respiratory rate is higher than the target, pressure support is increased by 1 cmH₂O, if lower the pressure support is decreased by 1 cmH₂O (Taniguchi 2009).

We included studies describing commercial and non-commercial automated ventilator applications. We excluded modes such as pressure regulated volume control (PRVC) (Siemens, Solna, Sweden) and pressure augmentation (Bear Medical Systems, Yorba Linda, United States), also known as volume assured pressure support (VAPS) (Bird Product Corporation, Yorba Linda, United

States), which use closed loops to minimize inspiratory pressure while guaranteeing volume as opposed to reducing the level of support based on patient tolerance.

Types of outcome measures

Primary outcomes

The total duration of ventilator weaning, where weaning was defined as the time in hours from study randomization to successful extubation or discontinuation of invasive and non-invasive mechanical ventilation (defined as no requirement for either reintubation or recommencement of mechanical ventilation (in the case of tracheostomy) for 24, 48, or 72 hours, or as defined by study authors), or death

Secondary outcomes

1. Time from study randomization to first extubation
2. Total duration of mechanical ventilation (from intubation to successful extubation)
3. Time from intubation to study randomization
4. Time from satisfying extubation criteria (as defined by the study authors) and actual extubation
5. Mortality (ICU, 28 or 30 day, 60 day, 90 day, and hospital)
6. ICU and hospital LOS
7. Number of adverse events (reintubation, self-extubation, post-extubation non-invasive ventilation, and prolonged ventilation defined as requirement for mechanical ventilation for ≥ 21 days)

Search methods for identification of studies

Electronic searches

Two authors (LR and PJ) searched the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL) (*The Cochrane Library* 2013, Issue 8); MEDLINE (OvidSP) (1948 to September 2013); EMBASE (OvidSP) (1980 to September 2013); CINAHL (EBSCOhost) (1982 to September 2013); and the Latin American and Caribbean Health Sciences Literature (LILACS). Relevant published reviews were sought using the Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE) and the Health Technology Assessment Database (HTA Database). The original search was run in August 2011, with database auto-alerts to August 2012.

In MEDLINE we combined our search terms with the Cochrane highly sensitive search strategy for identifying RCTs (Appendix 1). We adapted our MEDLINE search strategy to other selected databases (EMBASE: Appendix 2; CENTRAL: Appendix 3; DARE: Appendix 4; HTA: Appendix 5; CINAHL: Appendix 6; LILACS: Appendix 7).

We limited our searches to RCTs, systematic reviews and meta-analyses, and we applied a filter to limit the search to human studies.

We did not impose language or other restrictions.

Searching other resources

We searched conference proceedings using the Web of Science Conference Proceedings Citation Index - Science and Social Science and Humanities (1990 to September 2013).

We also searched the conference proceedings of the annual congresses of the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine, Society of Critical Care Medicine, Australian New Zealand Intensive Care Society, and American Thoracic Society (each searched from January 2005 to October 2013).

We searched for unpublished studies and ongoing trials on the following websites:

1. www.clinicaltrials.gov/;
2. www.controlled-trials.com/mrct/; and
3. www.who.int/trialsearch.

We searched for prospectively registered systematic reviews using PROSPERO at www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero/.

We handsearched the reference lists of retrieved studies and review papers as well as contacted the identified corresponding authors of eligible trials and content experts to identify additional potentially relevant studies.

Data collection and analysis

Selection of studies

We developed a tool to perform study screening (Appendix 8). Two authors (LR, PJ) independently examined the titles and abstracts of articles retrieved through the electronic and manual searches to determine eligibility using the inclusion and exclusion criteria, which were listed on the screening tool. The full-texts of articles selected for inclusion by either review author, from the review of the title and abstract, were obtained and examined for eligibility. We resolved any disagreements through discussion and were able to achieve consensus without referring to an independent arbiter (DM).

Data extraction and management

Two authors (BB, MS) independently extracted study data from the selected studies using a standardized data extraction form (Appendix 9). Where an author was a member of the study team, he or she was excluded from data extraction and this task was assigned to a third author (LR). We piloted the form on a random sample of five studies prior to its use. Information was extracted

on the study design and setting, participant demographic characteristics, study inclusion and exclusion criteria, weaning methods in the intervention and control arms of the selected studies, sedation strategies, and study outcomes. As well, randomization methods, allocation concealment, blinding, frequency and handling of missing data, adherence to intention-to-treat analysis, and selective reporting of outcomes were described. We contacted the corresponding authors of selected studies to seek further clarification on issues of reporting or to obtain additional outcome data. Data extractors were not blinded to the study citations.

Assessment of risk of bias in included studies

The quality of the included studies was independently assessed by two authors (BB, MS) and verified by a third (LR). Study quality was assessed using the domain-based evaluation recommended by The Cochrane Collaboration (Higgins 2011). These domains include:

1. random sequence generation,
2. allocation concealment,
3. blinding,
4. incomplete outcome data,
5. selective reporting,
6. other bias.

For each domain, we assigned a judgment regarding the risk of bias as 'high risk of bias', 'low risk of bias', or 'unclear risk of bias' (Higgins 2011). We attempted to contact the trial corresponding author for clarification when insufficient detail was reported to assess the risk of bias. A priori, we anticipated that no eligible trials would be blinded to the weaning intervention. Once we achieved consensus on the quality assessment of the six domains for eligible studies, we assigned them to the following categories.

1. Low risk of bias: describes studies for which all domains are scored as 'low risk of bias'.
2. High risk of bias: two or more domains are scored as 'No', indicating high risk of bias.
3. Unclear risk of bias: one or more domains are scored as unclear.

We constructed a 'Risk of bias' table in RevMan 5.2 to present the results. We used the assessment of risk of bias to perform sensitivity analyses based on methodological quality.

Measures of treatment effect

We calculated the difference in means, 95% confidence interval (CI) and the standard error of that difference for continuous outcomes. For dichotomous data we described the treatment effects using risk ratios (RR) and 95% CIs. The pooled estimate was calculated using the random-effects model as heterogeneity was anticipated and this model makes adjustments for the heterogeneity and produces a more conservative estimate of treatment effect (DeMets 1987).

Unit of analysis issues

Individual participants in each trial arm comprised the unit of analysis. All trials had a parallel group design and thus no adjustment was necessary for crossover or clustering.

Dealing with missing data

We contacted the corresponding authors of selected trials to obtain missing data.

Assessment of heterogeneity

We evaluated the clinical heterogeneity in selected studies by qualitative assessment of study differences in terms of study population, ICU type, the type of clinician involvement in decision-making for the weaning process, and implementation of weaning and extubation processes. Statistical heterogeneity was informally evaluated from forest plots of the study estimates, and more formally using the χ^2 test ($P < 0.05$, significant heterogeneity) and I^2 statistic ($I^2 > 50\%$, moderate to substantial heterogeneity) (Higgins 2011).

Assessment of reporting biases

Reporting bias occurs due to an increased likelihood of positive trials being published compared to trials with negative findings. We constructed a funnel plot (graphical display) of the treatment effect for the primary outcome against trial precision (standard error) using RevMan 5.2. We visually inspected the funnel plot for asymmetry. We identified sufficient studies (≥ 10) to formally test for asymmetry using the test proposed by Egger 1997 (linear regression of the intervention effect estimate against its standard error, weighted by the inverse of the variance of the intervention effect estimate) because of the continuous nature of our primary outcome variable.

Data synthesis

Findings are presented in the 'Summary of findings for the main comparison'. Two authors (CC, LR) organized the data, conducted analyses and reported summary statistics when data were available, similar and of good quality. We identified sufficient studies to perform meta-analyses using RevMan 5.2. When pooling was appropriate, we used a random-effects model which incorporates variation both within and between studies. Continuous data for our primary and secondary outcomes were skewed, therefore we log transformed the data for the primary analysis. This was done by obtaining the raw data from the corresponding authors of the selected studies, which we then log transformed. When unable to obtain data from the corresponding authors we log transformed the mean and SD using the method described by Higgins 2011. If the mean (SD) was not available we used the median and interquartile range (IQR) of the unlogged data to approximate the

mean using the method described by Hozo and colleagues (Hozo 2005) and calculated an approximate SD on the log scale from the IQR on the log scale (Higgins 2011). We performed a sensitivity analysis examining the standardized mean difference on the unlogged data.

The exponential of the difference in the mean of a variable on the log scale between the intervention and the control groups was determined to give the ratio of geometric means on the unlogged scale. We reported the percentage change and 95% confidence interval (CI) (reduction or increase) in the geometric mean for the treatment group compared to control for ease of understanding (Bland 1996).

Subgroup analysis and investigation of heterogeneity

We planned to perform the following subgroup analyses to assess the impact on weaning duration, total duration of mechanical ventilation, ICU length of stay, and rate of reintubation:

1. type of patient i.e., medical, surgical, or trauma;
2. weaning classification (simple, difficult, or prolonged (Boles 2007));
3. adult versus paediatric populations;
4. the automated weaning application evaluated;
5. the non-automated weaning strategy used (protocolized versus non-protocolized weaning); and
6. type of sedation strategy used (targeted to sedation score, daily interruption, no formal sedation strategy).

Due to limited numbers we collapsed patient types in to medical or mixed ICU populations and surgical ICU populations. We were unable to perform subgroup analyses according to weaning classification as no trials have been conducted using this taxonomy. We were unable to perform a subgroup analysis in trials of adult versus paediatric populations as we only identified one trial that recruited children. We did not perform a subgroup analysis based on the type of sedation strategy used as this was inadequately reported in most trials.

Sensitivity analysis

We performed a sensitivity analysis to investigate the effect on the primary outcome of excluding trials with high risk of bias.

Summary of finding tables

We assessed the quality of the evidence associated with the total duration of ventilator weaning, other relevant durations of invasive mechanical ventilation listed as secondary outcomes, mortality, ICU and hospital lengths of stay and adverse events using the principles of the GRADE system (Guyatt 2008). We presented our findings using a 'Summary of findings for the main comparison' (SoF) constructed in RevMan 5.2. The GRADE system assesses within study risk of bias (methodological quality), directness of evidence, data heterogeneity, precision of effect estimates and risk of publication bias.

RESULTS

Description of studies

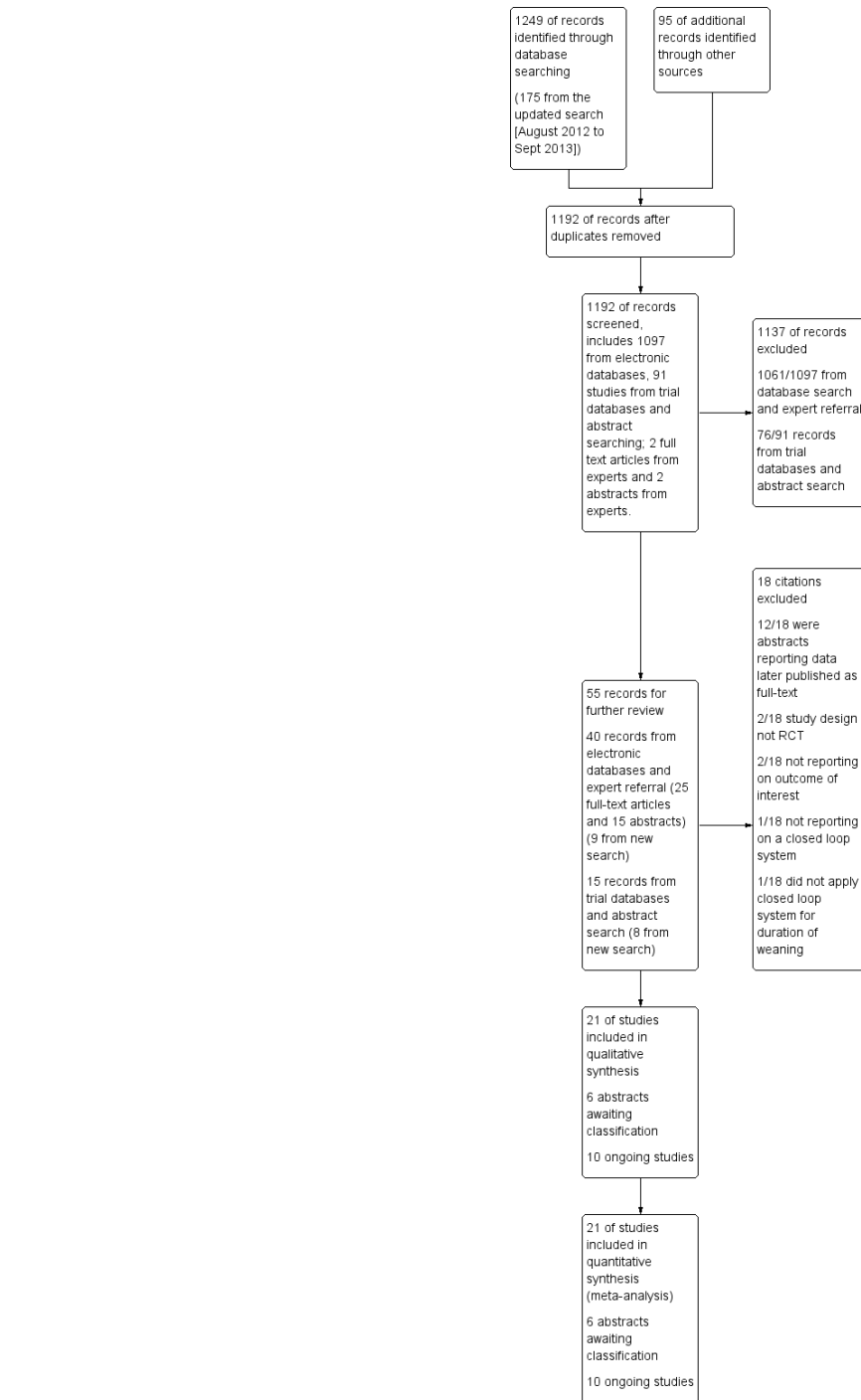
(See: [Characteristics of included studies](#); [Characteristics of excluded studies](#); [Characteristics of ongoing studies](#); [Characteristics of studies awaiting classification](#))

We identified eligible RCTs with intervention arms that comprised one of the following commercially available closed loop systems: Smartcare/PS™, ASV, Automode, MMV, MRV, or PAV+; and one study of a non-commercial closed loop system. The control arms of the included studies comprised weaning from mechanical ventilation using either written protocols or the usual methods within the study sites.

Results of the search

Our search of the electronic databases, described above, retrieved 1249 citations including 175 from our updated search (August 2012 to September 2013). In addition, we received four citations recommended by experts. After reviewing the citation titles and abstracts retrieved from the electronic databases and expert referrals we retrieved 40 potentially relevant studies, nine from our updated search. Of these, 11 were abstracts of eligible studies later published as full-text reports. Three were available in abstract form only, two met our inclusion criteria and are pending classification, and the second was an abstract reporting interim findings from a trial previously included in our list of ongoing trials. We excluded six studies as they did not meet our inclusion criteria. We identified a further 91 citations to review from trials databases and conference abstracts. Of these we identified five potentially relevant abstracts that are pending classification (two from the updated search) and 10 ongoing trials (six from the updated search) (see [Figure 1](#)).

Figure 1. Study flow diagram.



Included studies

In our original review we included 15 trials (Rose 2013). In this updated review we included an additional six studies (Agarwal 2013; Aghadavoudi 2012; Burns 2013; Liu 2013; Ramet 2002; Xirouchaki 2008). We included 21 trials with a total of 1676 participants in this updated review; 19 adult and two paediatric (see [Characteristics of included studies](#)). Sample sizes of individual studies ranged from 13 to 300 participants receiving mechanical ventilation in an ICU. Twelve trials were conducted in mixed or medical ICU populations (n = 871, 52%) (Agarwal 2013; Burns 2013; Davis 1989; Jouvret 2013; Kirakli 2011; Lellouche 2006; Liu 2013; Ramet 2002; Rose 2008; Strickland 1993; Walkey 2011; Xirouchaki 2008) and nine trials were conducted in the surgical ICU population (n = 805, 48%) (Aghadavoudi 2012; Dongelmans 2009; Hendrix 2006; Petter 2003; Roth 2001; Schädler 2012; Stahl 2009; Sulzer 2001; Taniguchi 2009). We included eight trials of Smartcare/PS™ (n = 800, 48%) (Burns 2013; Jouvret 2013; Lellouche 2006; Liu 2013; Rose 2008; Schädler 2012; Stahl 2009; Walkey 2011); six trials of ASV (n = 424, 25%) (Agarwal 2013; Aghadavoudi 2012; Dongelmans 2009; Kirakli 2011; Petter 2003; Sulzer 2001); three trials of Automode (Hendrix 2006; Ramet 2002; Roth 2001); one trial of MMV (Davis 1989); one trial of MRV (Taniguchi 2009); one trial of PAV+ (Xirouchaki 2008); and one trial describing a non-commercial automated closed loop system comprising modification of a Puritan Bennett 7200 ventilator to allow direct control of the ventilator settings by an external PC-compatible computer (Strickland 1993). The computer monitored patient and ventilator data through the serial digital outputs of a pulse oximeter and the ventilator. The computer sam-

pled respiratory rate and oxygen saturation (SpO₂) every five minutes, and calculated a moving average of V_T using the average of the last five one minute V_T samples. The computer decreased the synchronized intermittent mandatory ventilation (SIMV) rate by two every hour until a rate of two was reached. The computer then decreased the pressure support (PS) by 2 cmH₂O every hour as long as the V_T and respiratory rate limits were met.

Excluded studies

We excluded six studies; two studies of Smartcare/PS™ (Jiang 2006; Ma 2010) that were determined not to be RCTs, one trial that evaluated a system that monitored real-time data but did not close the loop by making automated changes (Maloney 2007), one trial that did not apply the closed loop mode for the duration of weaning (Lellouche 2013), and two studies that evaluated a non-commercial computerized decision support system for management of patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome that offered therapeutic and diagnostic suggestions according to a protocol but did not close the loop by making automated changes to the ventilator (East 1999; McKinley 2001).

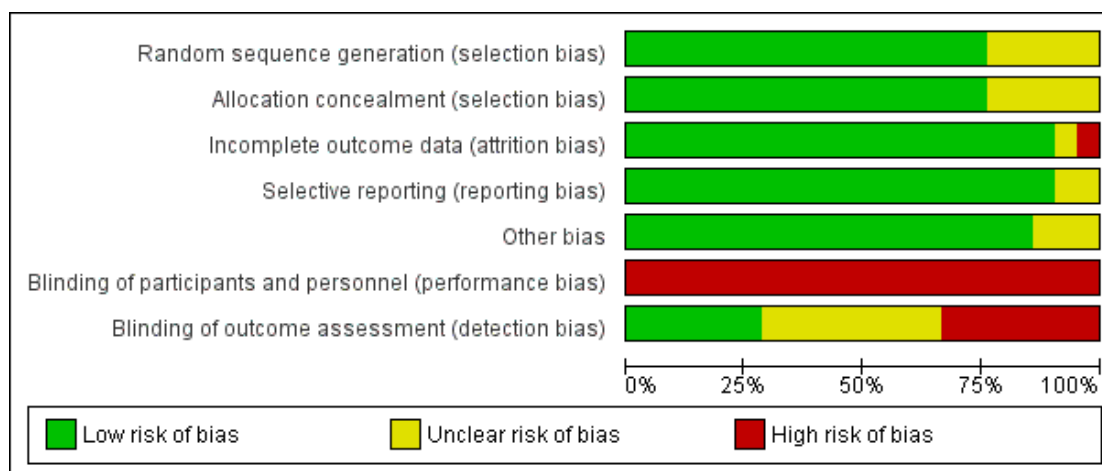
Risk of bias in included studies

Details regarding the performance of the studies against each domain are shown in the 'Risk of bias' tables for individual studies. A summary of information is provided in the table 'Characteristics of included studies'. Additionally, a visual summary of judgements about each methodological quality item for each included trial is shown in [Figure 2](#) and [Figure 3](#).

Figure 2. Risk of bias summary: review authors' judgements about each risk of bias item for each included study.

	Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias)	Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Other bias	Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias)	Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias)
Agarwal 2013	+	+	+	+	+	-	-
Aghadavoudi 2012	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
Burns 2013	+	+	+	+	+	-	-
Davis 1989	?	?	+	+	+	-	?
Dongelmans 2009	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
Hendrix 2006	?	?	+	+	+	-	?
Jouvet 2013	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
Kirakli 2011	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
Lellouche 2006	+	+	+	+	+	-	?
Liu 2013	?	?	+	+	+	-	?
Petter 2003	+	+	+	+	+	-	-
Ramet 2002	?	?	?	?	?	-	?
Rose 2008	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
Roth 2001	?	?	+	+	+	-	?
Schädler 2012	+	+	+	+	+	-	-
Stahl 2009	+	+	+	+	?	-	+
Strickland 1993	+	+	+	+	+	-	?
Sulzer 2001	+	+	+	+	+	-	-
Taniguchi 2009	+	+	+	+	+	-	-
Walkey 2011	+	+	-	?	?	-	?
Xirouchaki 2008	+	+	+	+	+	-	-

Figure 3. Risk of bias graph: review authors' judgements about each risk of bias item presented as percentages across all included studies.



Allocation

We judged the risk of bias due to random sequence generation to be low for 16 trials and unclear for five trials. Of the 16 trials assessed to be at low risk of bias, 10 used computer generated randomization (Agarwal 2013; Aghadavoudi 2012; Burns 2013; Kirakli 2011; Lellouche 2006; Rose 2008; Schädler 2012; Stahl 2009; Walkey 2011; Xirouchaki 2008), one used a random number table (Strickland 1993), and five shuffled envelopes containing the allocation (Dongelmans 2009; Jouvret 2013; Petter 2003; Sulzer 2001; Taniguchi 2009). Of the five trials rated as unclear, four provided insufficient information to assess the adequacy of sequence generation (Davis 1989; Liu 2013; Roth 2001). In the remaining trial, due to limited availability of a ventilator with Automode function, only two patients could be randomized at a time. We were unable to determine if the two patients were randomly selected from all patients undergoing cardiac surgery on that day (Hendrix 2006).

We assessed the risk of bias due to allocation concealment methods to be low for 16 trials; three trials used central allocation (Burns 2013; Lellouche 2006; Schädler 2012) and 13 used sequentially numbered sealed opaque envelopes (Agarwal 2013; Aghadavoudi 2012; Dongelmans 2009; Jouvret 2013; Kirakli 2011; Petter 2003; Rose 2008; Stahl 2009; Strickland 1993; Sulzer 2001; Taniguchi 2009; Walkey 2011; Xirouchaki 2008). One trial (Hendrix 2006) was judged as unclear as it was not possible to assess if the allocation written on slips of paper was visible to the person selecting them.

Four trials (Davis 1989; Liu 2013; Ramet 2002; Roth 2001) were judged as unclear as they did not present information regarding allocation concealment.

Blinding

Due to the nature of the intervention, blinding of clinicians involved in the delivery of mechanical ventilation and weaning would not have been feasible in all 21 trials. The extent to which this could have biased the results is unclear. However there is the potential that awareness of study allocation may have influenced the performance of clinicians managing ventilator weaning in study control arms. Additionally, awareness of study allocation potentially could influence the decision to extubate thus influencing the overall duration of weaning in either arm. Therefore, we have rated all 21 trials at high risk of bias due to lack of blinding of clinicians. For studies reporting primary and secondary outcomes such as duration of weaning, mechanical ventilation, ICU and hospital stay that are objective and not subject to interpretation by outcome assessors we considered the risk of detection bias as low if the outcome assessors were not involved in daily patient care (Aghadavoudi 2012; Dongelmans 2009; Jouvret 2013; Kirakli 2011; Rose 2008; Stahl 2009). Seven trials (Davis 1989; Hendrix 2006; Lellouche 2006; Liu 2013; Ramet 2002; Roth 2001; Strickland 1993) were rated as unclear as we were unable to determine if the outcome assessors were involved in

daily patient care. Eight trials (Agarwal 2013; Burns 2013; Petter 2003; Schädler 2012; Sulzer 2001; Taniguchi 2009; Walkey 2011; Xirouchaki 2008) were judged at high risk of bias as some of the outcome assessors were also involved in patient care.

Incomplete outcome data

We judged 19 trials as being at low risk of attrition bias as they either had no missing data or performed analyses according to the intention-to-treat principal. We rated one trial (Ramet 2002) as unclear risk as results were only available in abstract form. Limited results for one trial (Walkey 2011) that was stopped early due to slow recruitment were available via the trial registration database www.trials.gov and personal communication with the author, and thus we rated the trial as at high risk of bias.

Selective reporting

We did not find any evidence of reporting bias. Trial protocols or registrations were available for eight trials (Agarwal 2013; Burns 2013; Dongelmans 2009; Jouver 2013; Kirakli 2011; Rose 2008; Schädler 2012; Xirouchaki 2008). Limited results were available for one trial (Walkey 2011) via the trial registration database www.trials.gov and personal communication with the author. One trial (Ramet 2002) was only available in abstract form. Although access to the trial protocols was not possible for the remaining 11 trials, reporting of the primary and secondary outcomes was consistent with those described in the methods section of each trial.

Other potential sources of bias

Eighteen trials appeared to be free of other sources of bias. Two trials were stopped early, one for futility (Stahl 2009) and one for failure to recruit participants (Walkey 2011). One trial (Ramet 2002) was only available in abstract form.

Effects of interventions

See: [Summary of findings for the main comparison](#)

All 21 trials presented data suitable for inclusion in the meta-analyses. We converted all reported durations to hours with the exception of ICU and hospital LOS, which are reported in days. We present our primary analysis, which comprised the durations of weaning, ventilation, ICU and hospital stay, using log-transformed data due to the skewed distribution of these outcomes. We were able to obtain means (SDs) on the log scale directly from trial investigators for six trials (Dongelmans 2009; Jouver 2013; Kirakli 2011; Rose 2008; Schädler 2012; Xirouchaki 2008). For nine trials we calculated log-transformed means and SDs from unlogged data using the method described by Higgins 2011. For the remaining six trials (Agarwal 2013; Burns 2013; Liu 2013; Petter 2003; Stahl 2009; Sulzer 2001) we approximated the mean from the

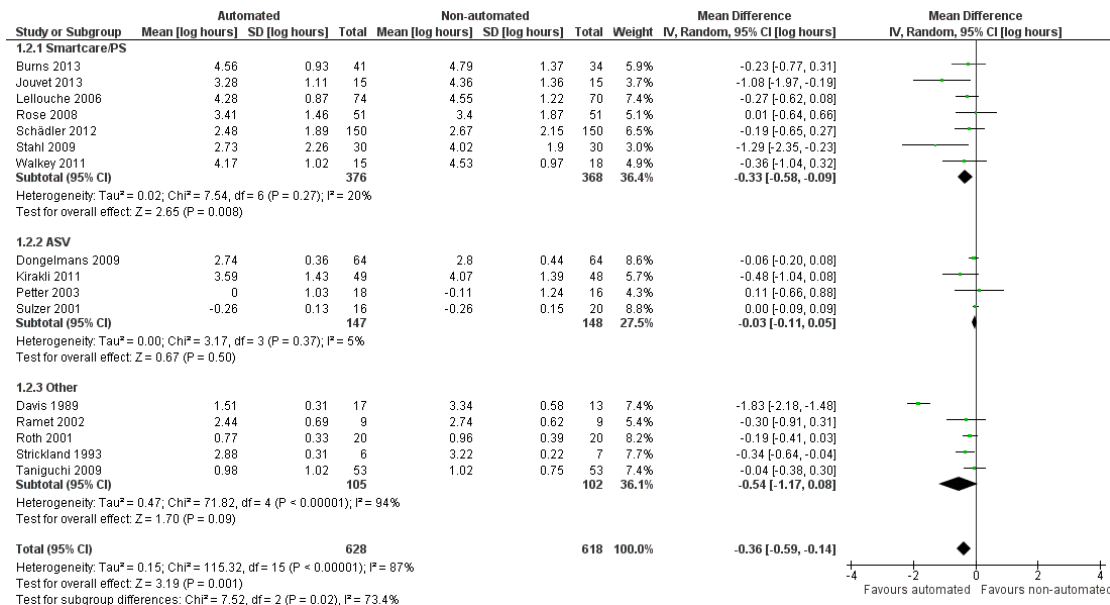
median using the method described in the data synthesis section above. We presented subgroup analyses according to ICU patient population, automated system used in the intervention arm, and weaning method used in the control arm. We also presented a sensitivity analysis of un-logged data for the continuous outcomes listed in the 'Methods' section above. A third sensitivity analysis of the primary outcome was presented that excluded data from two studies judged at high risk of bias (Ramet 2002; Walkey 2011).

Duration of weaning

Total duration of weaning (randomization to successful extubation)

Sixteen trials reported on the duration of weaning defined as from randomization to successful extubation. Using a random-effects model, due to statistically significant ($P < 0.00001$) and substantial ($I^2 = 87\%$) heterogeneity, pooled data from these 16 trials indicated a reduction in the duration of weaning when comparing automated closed loop systems to non-automated methods (mean log hours -0.36 , 95% CI -0.59 to -0.14 , $P = 0.001$), which is equivalent to a 30% (95% CI 13% to 45%) reduction in the geometric mean. Subgroup analyses according to ICU population demonstrated a different effect by population type (P value for subgroup differences was 0.04) with a reduction in weaning duration in studies including mixed or medical ICU patients: mean log hours -0.55 , 95% CI -1.00 to -0.10 , $P = 0.02$, equivalent to a 42% (95% CI 10% to 63%) reduction in the geometric mean. No difference in weaning duration was found in studies including only surgical ICU patients: mean log hours -0.07 , 95% CI -0.18 to 0.04 , $P = 0.19$, equivalent to a 7% (95% CI 4% increase to 16% reduction) reduction in the geometric mean. Studies including mixed or medical ICU patients had significant ($P < 0.00001$) and substantial heterogeneity ($I^2 = 87\%$) whereas studies recruiting surgical ICU patients had minimal heterogeneity ($I^2 = 29\%$) (Analysis 1.1). A different effect was observed for automated system (P for subgroup differences = 0.03) with a reduction in the duration of weaning using Smartcare/PSTM (mean log hours -0.33 , 95% CI -0.58 to -0.09 , $P = 0.008$, equivalent to a 28% (95% CI 7% to 49%) reduction in the geometric mean). There was no difference in the duration of weaning in studies of ASV (mean log hours -0.03 , 95% CI -0.11 to 0.05 , $P = 0.50$, equivalent to a 3% (95% CI 5% increase to 10% reduction) reduction in the geometric mean) or other systems (mean log hours -0.54 , 95% CI -1.17 to 0.08 , $P = 0.09$, equivalent to a 42% (95% CI 8% increase to 69% reduction) reduction in the geometric mean) (Analysis 1.2) (Figure 4). There was no subgroup difference according to the weaning method used in the control arm with broadly overlapping subgroup CIs (Analysis 1.3).

Figure 4. Forest plot of comparison: I Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, outcome: 1.2 Total weaning duration by automated system (log hours).



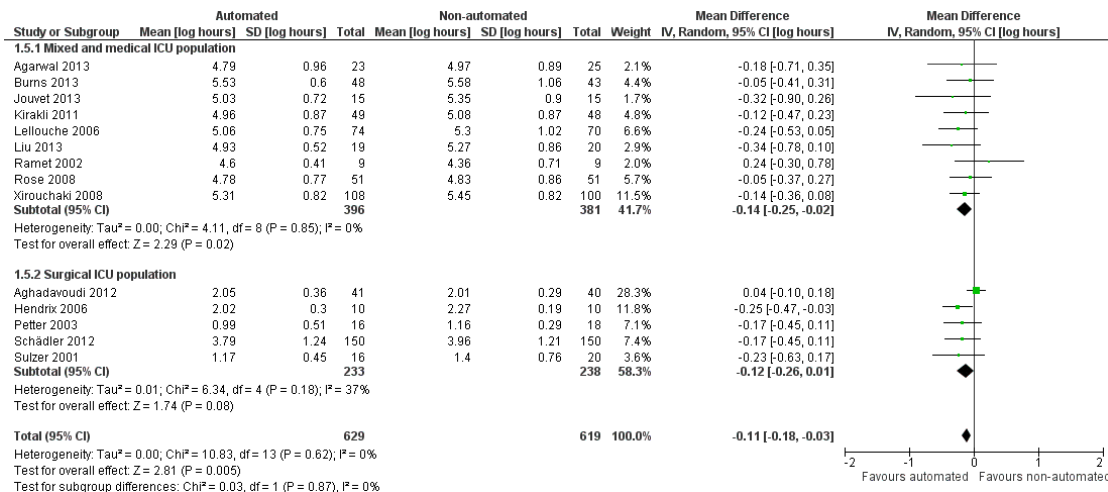
Randomization to first extubation

Eleven trials reported on the duration from study randomization to first extubation. Pooled data using a random-effects model demonstrated a reduction favouring use of an automated closed loop system (mean log hours -0.20, 95% CI -0.34 to -0.05, $P = 0.04$, equivalent to an 18% (95% CI 5% to 29%) reduction in the geometric mean). Statistically significant ($P < 0.0005$) and substantial ($I^2 = 68\%$) heterogeneity was found for these 11 trials (Analysis 1.4).

Duration of mechanical ventilation

Fourteen trials reported on the total duration of ventilation. Pooled data using a random-effects model indicated a reduction in the total duration of ventilation favouring the use of an automated closed loop system (mean log hours -0.11, 95% CI -0.18 to -0.03, $P = 0.005$, equivalent to a 10% (95% CI 3% to 16%) reduction in the geometric mean) with no heterogeneity ($I^2 = 0\%$, $P = 0.87$) (Analysis 1.5) (Figure 5). There were no subgroup differences according to ICU population, automated system, or the weaning method used in the control arm, with broadly overlapping subgroup CIs (Analysis 1.6; Analysis 1.7).

Figure 5. Forest plot of comparison: I Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, outcome: I.5 Ventilation duration by study population (log hours).



Time from intubation to randomization

Ten trials reported the time from intubation to randomization. Pooled data using a random-effects model, due to moderate heterogeneity ($I^2 = 46\%$), indicated no difference in this duration when comparing automated closed loop systems to non-automated methods (mean log hours -0.04, 95% CI -0.14 to 0.05, $P = 0.36$, equivalent to a 4% (95% CI 5% increase to 13% reduction) reduction in the geometric mean) (Analysis 1.8).

Mortality

Twelve trials reported mortality; six trials reported ICU mortality only, two trials reported 30-day mortality, one trial reported hospital mortality only, and four trials reported both ICU and hospital mortality. Due to relatively wide CIs the pooled data from 12 trials (RR 1.04, 95% CI 0.83 to 1.31, $P = 0.72$) did not provide strong evidence that automated systems had an effect on mortality when compared to non-automated weaning. Minimal heterogeneity was noted ($I^2 = 3\%$). No strong evidence of effect was noted for ICU mortality (RR 1.23, 95% CI 0.58 to 2.60, $P = 0.60$), 30-day mortality (RR 1.14, 95% CI 0.75 to 1.75, $P = 0.53$) and hospital mortality (RR 0.95, 95% CI 0.62 to 1.45, $P = 0.16$) (Analysis 1.9).

Duration of hospital stay

Hospital LOS was reported in seven trials. Pooled data using a random-effects model found no strong evidence of effect for automated closed loop systems when compared to non-automated methods (mean log days -0.10, 95% CI -0.21 to 0.02, $P = 0.10$,

equivalent to a 10% (95% CI 2% increase to 19% reduction) reduction in the geometric mean) with no heterogeneity ($I^2 = 0\%$, $P = 0.52$) (Analysis 1.10).

Length of ICU stay

The length of ICU stay was reported in 13 trials. Pooled data using a random-effects model, due to moderate heterogeneity ($I^2 = 49\%$, $P = 0.02$), demonstrated a reduction in ICU stay favouring automated closed loop systems (mean log days -0.08, 95% CI -0.16 to -0.00, $P = 0.05$, equivalent to a 8% (95% CI 0% to 15%) reduction in the geometric mean). Pooled analysis of studies conducted in the mixed and medical ICU population demonstrated a reduction in ICU stay (mean log days -0.16, 95% CI -0.29 to -0.04, $P = 0.01$, equivalent to a 15% (95% CI 4% to 25%) reduction in the geometric mean) whereas those conducted in the surgical ICU population did not (mean log days 0.02, 95% CI -0.02 to 0.06, $P = 0.29$, equivalent to a 2% (95% CI 2% reduction to 6% increase) increase in the geometric mean) (Analysis 1.11). Pooled analysis of trials conducted using the Smartcare/PSTM identified a reduction in ICU length of stay (mean log days -0.26, 95% CI -0.43 to -0.09, $P = 0.003$, equivalent to a 23% (95% CI 9% to 35%) reduction in the geometric mean) whereas ASV trials did not (mean log days 0.02, 95% CI -0.02 to 0.06, $P = 0.39$, equivalent to a 2% (95% CI 2% reduction to 6% increase) increase in the geometric mean) (Analysis 1.12).

Adverse events associated with weaning

We considered adverse events potentially related to the process of weaning to include reintubation, self-extubation, use of non-

invasive ventilation after extubation, prolonged mechanical ventilation (defined as greater than 21 days of continuous ventilation) and tracheostomy. There was no strong evidence of effect on reintubation rates in the 13 trials reporting this outcome (RR 0.80, 95% CI 0.61 to 1.05, $P = 0.1$). There was no strong evidence that automated systems had an effect on reintubation rates in trials comparing automated to usual weaning processes (RR 0.71, 95% CI 0.27 to 1.88, $P = 0.49$) or to protocolized weaning (RR 0.81, 95% CI 0.61 to 1.07, $P = 0.14$) (Analysis 1.13). Subgroup analyses according to ICU population or automated system were not reported due to the low number of events ($n = 2$) reported in a single trial. Similarly there was no strong evidence of effect on rates of self-extubation (RR 1.24, 95% CI 0.58 to 2.67, $P = 0.58$, 9 trials) (Analysis 1.14) or non-invasive ventilation after extubation (RR 0.73, 95% CI 0.53 to 1.02, $P = 0.07$, 12 trials) (Analysis 1.15). Prolonged mechanical ventilation (RR 0.51, 95% CI 0.27 to 0.95, $P = 0.03$, 7 trials) (Analysis 1.16) and rates of tracheostomy (RR 0.67, 95% CI 0.50 to 0.90, $P = 0.008$, 9 trials) were reduced in favour of automated systems (Analysis 1.17).

Sensitivity analyses using un-logged data

We conducted this sensitivity analysis to explore the effects of automated closed loop systems prior to log-transforming the data. We were able to obtain means (SDs) from either the published report or from communication with the author for 13 trials. For the remaining six trials (Agarwal 2013; Burns 2013; Liu 2013; Petter 2003; Stahl 2009; Sulzer 2001) the approximated means and SDs of study outcomes were calculated from the reported medians and IQRs using the methods described above.

Overall the pooled duration of weaning was not effected with the use of an automated system (-0.75 hours, 95% CI -1.85 to 0.34, $P = 0.18$), however statistically significant substantial heterogeneity was present ($I^2 = 72\%$, $P < 0.00001$). Subanalyses according to ICU population demonstrated a reduction in the duration of

weaning in the trials of the mixed and medical ICU population (mean hours -18.75, 95% CI -32.30 to -5.20, $P = 0.007$) but not in trials of surgical ICU populations (mean hours -0.15, 95% CI -0.70 to 0.39, $P = 0.58$) (Analysis 2.1). Weaning duration was reduced in trials examining Smartcare/PS™ (mean hours -38.46, 95% CI -58.11 to -18.81, $P = 0.0001$) but not in trials of ASV (mean hours -0.00, 95% CI -0.07 to 0.06, $P = 0.98$) or other automated systems (mean hours -3.89, 95% CI -7.71 to 0.07, $P = 0.05$) (Analysis 2.2). In those studies that compared the automated system to non-protocolized usual care, there was a reduction in the duration of weaning (mean hours -30.49, 95% CI -60.63 to -0.35, $P = 0.05$, $I^2 = 52\%$) whereas there was no difference when compared to a protocolized approach (Analysis 2.3). There was no difference in the time to first extubation (mean hours -0.61, 95% CI -1.61 to 0.39, $P = 0.23$) (Analysis 2.4), total duration of ventilation (mean hours -0.55, 95% CI -1.38 to 0.28) (Analysis 2.5), time from intubation to randomization (mean hours -0.16, 95% CI -0.69 to 0.36) (Analysis 2.6), hospital stay (mean days -2.20, 95% CI -4.91 to 0.52) (Analysis 2.7) and ICU stay (mean days 0.01, 95% CI -0.09 to 0.11) (Analysis 2.8).

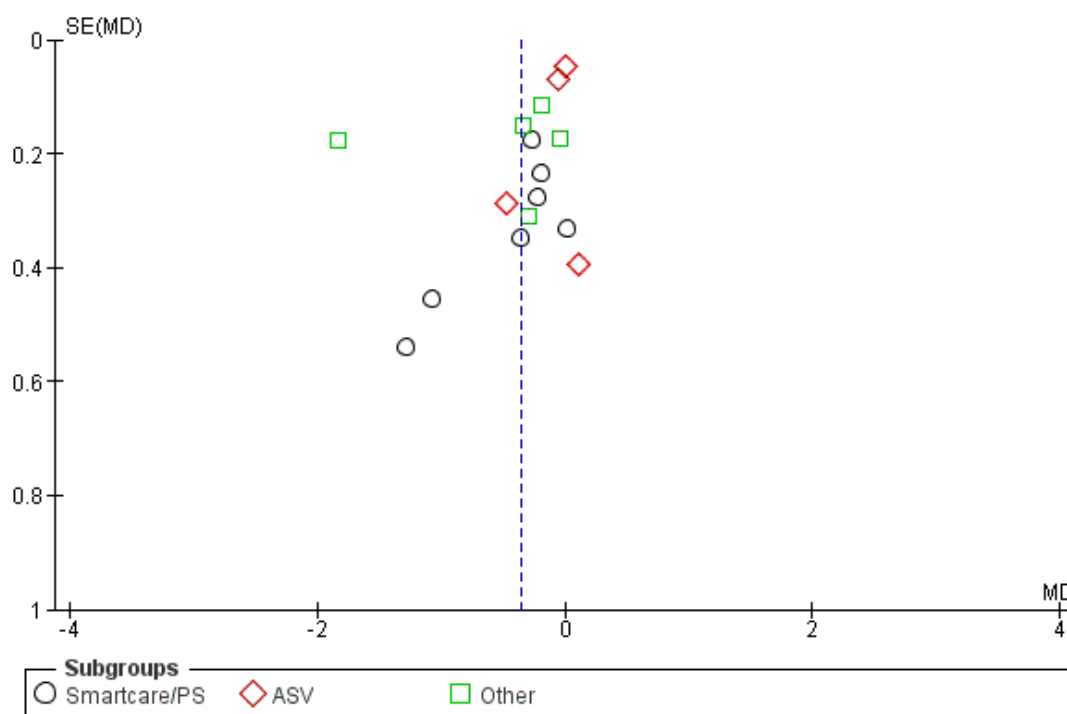
Sensitivity analyses excluding studies with high risk of bias

We conducted a sensitivity analysis to explore the effect of studies assessed as having high risk of bias for our primary outcome. Two studies (Ramet 2002; Walkey 2011) met this criterion. Pooled data from the 14 remaining trials continued to demonstrate a reduction in the duration of weaning using automated closed loop systems as opposed to non-automated methods (mean log hours -0.37, 95% CI -0.61 to -0.13, $P = 0.003$, equivalent to a 31% (95% CI 12% to 46%) reduction in the geometric mean) (Analysis 3.1).

Funnel plots

A funnel plot of the primary outcome provided little indication of asymmetry suggestive of publication bias (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Funnel plot of comparison: I Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, outcome: I.2 Total weaning duration by automated system (log hours).



DISCUSSION

Summary of main results

Based on the pooled data from the eligible trials, automated closed loop systems reduced the duration of weaning, defined as from study randomization to successful extubation, by 30% in the geometric mean compared to weaning using either a protocol or non-protocolized usual care. Reduced duration of weaning was found in studies of mixed and medical ICU populations (42% in the geometric mean duration) and studies evaluating Smartcare/PS™ (28% in the geometric mean duration). Automated closed loop systems did not reduce the duration of weaning in surgical ICU populations or systems other than Smartcare/PS™. The method of weaning in the trial comparator arms (protocol or non-protocolized usual care) did not influence the effect of automated closed loop systems on the duration of weaning. Due to substantial heterogeneity ($I^2 = 87\%$) among studies reporting the primary outcome, the duration of weaning, caution must be used when interpreting these results. In our sensitivity analysis using

un-logged data there was no difference in the duration of weaning between groups. However, a statistically significant and clinically meaningful difference in the duration of weaning was found in trials evaluating mixed and medical ICU populations only and in trials evaluating SmartCare/PS™. The reason for the disparate findings using logged and un-logged data for weaning duration when all studies were combined is due to the markedly lower SDs (that is less variation) in un-logged weaning duration in surgical ICU populations compared with mixed and medical ICU populations. Consequently the trials of surgical ICU populations, in which there is less evidence of a difference in weaning duration, receive much larger weights for the logged data than for the un-logged data. This means the overall conclusion for the difference in intervention and control groups for the logged data is much closer to zero than for the un-logged data. It is worth noting that the main conclusions for the logged and un-logged data in the surgical ICU population studies are similar and are the same for the logged and un-logged data in the mixed and medical ICU populations.

Automated closed loop systems also reduced the time from study randomization to first extubation (18% in the geometric mean), the duration of ventilation (10% in the geometric mean), and the

length of ICU stay (8% in the geometric mean). There was no strong evidence of an effect on mortality rates, hospital length of stay, reintubation, self extubation or the use of non-invasive ventilation (NIV) post-extubation. Automated closed loop systems reduced the rates of tracheostomy and the need for prolonged ventilation. A reduction in the duration of mechanical ventilation was found for all ICU populations as well as for studies examining Smartcare/PS™ and studies where the comparator arm comprised a weaning protocol. Reduced ICU stay was demonstrated only in mixed and medical ICU populations and trials of Smartcare/PS™. Trials reporting on the duration of ventilation and ICU stay had moderate heterogeneity and thus these findings may be considered more robust than the weaning duration outcome.

Overall completeness and applicability of evidence

Commercial availability of automated closed loop ventilation systems has led to a growing interest and enhanced feasibility in conducting trials such that 13 of the 21 eligible trials were published in the last five years. The most frequently evaluated systems were Smartcare/PS™ and ASV. A notable difference in these two systems is that the ASV automates the switching from controlled to spontaneous ventilation and thereby automates initiation of weaning whereas Smartcare/PS™ requires clinician recognition of a patient's ability to breathe spontaneously followed by activation of Smartcare/PS™. This difference is important when considering the potential impact on weaning and ventilation duration. Automated closed loop systems such as ASV, and its more recent extension Intellivent-ASV, which do not rely on clinician assessment to recognize weaning readiness and initiate weaning may have more influence on the overall duration of ventilation than those that rely on activation by a clinician. We did not detect an effect on the duration of ventilation in studies comparing ASV to usual methods, however this may be due to the inclusion of surgical ICU patients only who generally do not experience protracted weaning and ventilation.

We did not identify completed eligible trials of NAVA and only identified one trial of PAV+, two other commonly available commercial systems, though trials were identified in trial registration websites (Alander/Kontikari 2010; Fernandez 2013; Liu/Qui 2010). While trials have been conducted in both surgical and mixed and medical ICU populations there is a need for more trials of ASV in mixed and medical ICU populations. Given the lack of efficacy of automated systems in the surgical population, trials of Smartcare/PS™ are likely to be not required in this group. We were unable to conduct subgroup analyses according to the weaning classifications arising out of the 2005 consensus conference on weaning (Boles 2007) as these have not yet been widely adopted as trial inclusion criteria or a priori planned subgroup analyses. These classifications group patients in terms of difficulty in weaning and may enable better identification, particularly in mixed and

medical ICU populations, of the patient population for which automated closed loop systems are more likely to be effective. Only two trials in a paediatric population were identified. The trial of SmartCare/PS™ was conducted in children older than two years, due to age and weight limits imposed by this system. More than 50% of the patients admitted to paediatric intensive care units (PICUs) are less than two years old (Payen 2012). The lag in development of automated systems capable of providing age appropriate ventilation and weaning to all children probably explains the lack of trials. Given the potential for reduced duration of weaning and ventilation, and the small sample size of the one identified trial, commercial industry and researchers should focus their efforts on further technological development of automated systems adapted to children and the accompanying research. Sedation and analgesic practices influence the duration of weaning and ventilation (Luetz 2012; Wanzuuta 2012) and therefore should be described in detail in any trial with these as study outcomes. Seven trials did not describe sedation or pain assessment and implementation strategies, the amount of sedation and analgesia received, or level of sedation and analgesia achieved making the influence of this potentially confounding clinical practice difficult to assess.

Quality of the evidence

Overall the quality of the evidence was high with the majority of trials rated as low risk of bias across all six domains with the exception of performance bias. As discussed above, the nature of the intervention means blinding of clinicians involved in the delivery of mechanical ventilation and weaning is not feasible. In five trials the description provided for random sequence generation and allocation concealment was unclear and we were unable to obtain additional clarification from the study authors.

Potential biases in the review process

To minimize the introduction of bias in the review process, we strictly adhered to procedures outlined by The Cochrane Collaboration (Higgins 2011) including independent screening for trial inclusion, data extraction, and assessment of risk of bias by two review authors. We believe we have identified all relevant studies through the use of a comprehensive search strategy, developed in consultation with a senior librarian, in combination with a review of trial databases, conference abstracts, reference lists of relevant literature, and contact with experts and commercial ventilator companies.

Agreements and disagreements with other studies or reviews

This is the first published systematic review and meta-analysis of trials investigating automated closed loop ventilation systems.

AUTHORS' CONCLUSIONS

Implications for practice

Based on data from 21 trials totaling 1676 participants, utilization of an automated closed loop system may result in a reduction in the duration of weaning, ventilation and ICU stay. Potential reductions in weaning duration and ICU length of stay are more likely to occur in mixed and medical ICU populations as opposed to surgical ICU populations. All ICU populations may experience a reduction in the duration of ventilation using an automated closed loop system. The use of the automated closed loop system Smartcare/PS™ resulted in reductions in weaning, ventilation duration and ICU length of stay whereas ASV and other automated systems including Automode, MMV, MRV, PAV⁺ and a non-commercially available system did not influence these outcomes. Due to the lack of, or limited, evidence on automated systems other than Smartcare/PS™ and ASV no conclusions can be drawn regarding their influence on these outcomes. Automated closed loop systems compared favourably to a comparator arm comprising protocolization of the weaning process and existing usual care weaning practices that did not include a protocol for these outcomes. In the Cochrane review comparing protocolized weaning to usual care (Blackwood 2010a) use of a written professional-led protocol compared favourably to usual care when evaluating the duration of ventilation, whereas use of a computer-driven protocol via an automated closed loop system did not. The two trials of computer-driven protocols (Rose 2008; Stahl 2009) are included in our review. However, most trials comprised small to moderate sample sizes, the number of trials in subgroups were small and we found considerable heterogeneity for the primary outcome of weaning duration. Before an automated closed loop system is implemented in to clinical practice careful assessment is required of the local usual weaning practices including ICU organizational characteristics such as staffing ratios, hierarchical structure and ICU team functioning that may contribute to ICU performance and patient outcomes (Nguyen 2010).

Implications for research

Due to the high level of heterogeneity in trials reporting the duration of weaning we believe there is a need for an adequately powered, high quality, multi-centre randomized controlled trial in an adult patient population that excludes patients with the classification of 'simple to wean' based on our finding related to the lack of effect in surgical populations. This trial should include an economic analysis to determine the cost associated with the use of an automated system compared to usual care. Due to the lack of data on the performance of ASV in the difficult and prolonged weaning patient population, as well as minimal data on other closed loop systems such as PAV⁺ and NAVA, we are cautious to recommend which automated system should be selected for investigation. The design of the comparator would need careful consideration. If a professional-led protocol is chosen it should be designed so that there are no time criteria that limit progression of weaning and may bias findings towards the automated closed loop system. If non-protocolized usual care is selected as the comparator arm for a multi-centre study, it should be documented in sufficient detail, both before and during the trial, so that an assessment of the influence of institutional culture and characteristics can be made. In addition, there is a pressing need for more development of and research on automated closed loop systems in the paediatric population.

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* Indicates the major publication for the study

CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDIES

Characteristics of included studies [ordered by study ID]

Agarwal 2013

Methods	Randomized controlled trial in a single respiratory ICU	
Participants	Adults with acute respiratory distress syndrome	
Interventions	<p>Intervention: ASV. Patients were stabilized on volume control assist ventilation for 1 hour to determine the adequate minute ventilation. Peak pressure alarm was set at 45 cm H₂O to avoid P_{plat} ≥ 35 cm H₂O. Subsequent manipulation of %MV was guided by interpretation of the following parameters: P_{insp}, spontaneous respiratory frequency while on ASV (f_{spont}) and target respiratory frequency (f_{target}) calculated by the ASV algorithm. If the f_{spont} was greater than f_{target} by 10 breaths and/or associated was hypoxaemia (PaO₂ < 55 mm Hg or SpO₂ < 88%) or hypercapnic acidosis (pH < 7.25), then the %MV was escalated by 20%. If the f_{spont} was similar to f_{target} without any hypercapnoea or hypoxaemia, then the %MV was de-escalated by 10%. The pressurization slope (percentage of the inspiratory time taken to reach the peak pressure) was maintained at 25% for all subjects</p> <p>Weaning comprised sequential decrease in %MV every 2 h (or earlier). Spontaneous breathing trial was considered once %MV was ≤ 70% and P_{insp} was ≤ 8 cmH₂O. Patients were extubated if able to tolerate the spontaneous breathing trial for 60 min</p> <p>Control: assist control mode ventilation using low tidal volume strategy of 6ml/kg to maintain plateau pressures < 30 cm H₂O and pH > 7.3 with option to reduce tidal volume to 4 ml/kg and increase respiratory rate to 35/ min to achieve the above said goals. PSV weaning commenced once PEEP and FiO₂ requirements decreased to 8 cm H₂O and 0.4 respectively. The PS used was the P_{plat} recorded during VCV (P_{Smax}). PS was decreased by 2 cmH₂O every 6 h (or earlier) until PS of 7 cmH₂O. A 1 hour SBT via T-piece off ventilator was then performed</p> <p>FIO₂/PEEP was set according to ARDSnet protocol for both study arms to maintain SpO₂ of 88-92% at minimum possible FiO₂.</p>	
Outcomes	Duration of mechanical ventilation Duration of ICU stay Duration of hospital stay Mortality Ease of use of ventilator mode Frequency of blood gas analysis	
Notes	NCT01165528	
Risk of bias		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Randomization sequence was computer generated

Agarwal 2013 (Continued)

Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Assignments were placed in sealed opaque envelopes
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	No attrition, no missing outcome data
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All pre-specified outcomes are reported
Other bias	Low risk	No other sources of bias detected
Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias) All outcomes	High risk	Assumed as high risk due to the nature of the intervention
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	Outcome assessors were also involved in treatment of patients

Aghadavoudi 2012

Methods	Single centre randomized controlled trial
Participants	81 surgical ICU population (adults)
Interventions	<p>Intervention: ASV - initial ventilator parameters: 100% of the theoretical value based on predicted body weight, FIO₂ 60%, PEEP 3-5 cmH₂O, maximum airway pressure 35 cmH₂O, flow sensitivity 3 L/s. Ventilation was titrated according to ABGs 30 minutes after connection to the ventilator or 30 minutes after any modification of the ventilator settings. If Paco₂ was <35 mmHg or > 45 mmHg, minute ventilation was decreased or increased, respectively, by 10%. FIO₂ was adjusted to maintain SaO₂ of >95%. After commencement of spontaneous breathing, ASV setting was reduced by 50% of minute ventilation. When spontaneous breathing achieved an acceptable (VT > 5 ml/kg), ventilator mode was changed to CPAP and apnoea set at 20s. After 30 minutes, if extubation criteria were met, tracheal extubation was performed</p> <p>Control: SIMV with a set tidal volume VT of 10ml/kg, FIO₂ 60%, RR 10 breath/min, PS 10 cm H₂O, and PEEP 3-5cm H₂O. After commencement of spontaneous breathing with an acceptable VT, RR was reduced by two breaths/minutes every 30 minutes until it reached two breaths/min. Then, ventilation mode was converted to CPAP and patients were extubated based on the criteria as the ASV group</p>
Outcomes	<p>Duration of intubation</p> <p>Duration of ICU stay</p> <p>Total dose of sedation and analgesia</p> <p>Haemodynamic and ventilatory characteristics (systolic, diastolic, and mean BP, HR, VT, RR, P peak, (A-a) O₂ difference, lung compliance, and PaO₂/FiO₂, RSBI, ABGs changes from baseline to 6 hours in the ICU</p>
Notes	

<i>Risk of bias</i>		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Computer-based random allocation on arrival in ICU
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Assignments were placed in sealed opaque envelopes.(author communication)
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	No attrition, no missing outcome data
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All pre-specified outcomes are reported
Other bias	Low risk	No other sources of bias detected
Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias) All outcomes	High risk	Assumed as high risk due to the nature of the intervention
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Data collectors were extra nurses (one nurse in each shift) of the ICU who were trained for data collection in this study and were supervised by an anaesthesiologist. They were not involved in treatment of patients/care delivery (author communication)

Burns 2013

Methods	Multi-centre pilot randomized controlled trial
Participants	92 mixed ICU population (adults)
Interventions	Intervention: Smartcare/PS Control: written protocol for weaning and sedation
Outcomes	Protocol feasibility, acceptability and compliance Duration of weaning Duration of mechanical ventilation Length of ICU stay Length of hospital stay Mortality
Notes	
<i>Risk of bias</i>	

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Central randomization was concealed with use of an electronic mail system
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Central randomization was concealed with use of an electronic mail system (Draeger)
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	No attrition, no missing outcome data
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All pre-specified outcomes are reported
Other bias	Low risk	No other sources of bias detected
Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias) All outcomes	High risk	Assumed as high risk due to the nature of the intervention
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	Outcome assessors not blinded. Some outcome assessors (respiratory therapists) were involved in daily patient care (author communication)

Davis 1989

Methods	Single centre randomized controlled trial
Participants	40 adult patients (intervention 22; control 18) ventilated for longer than 24 hours for acute respiratory failure due to pulmonary parenchymal and airway pathology. Respiratory failure was defined as $\text{PaO}_2 < 8 \text{ kPa}$ on 40% FiO_2 or a $\text{PaCO}_2 > 6$. Patients with muscular weakness, asthma and respiratory centre depression due to head injury or overdose were excluded. Patients were randomized when fulfilled the following weaning criteria: haemodynamic stability, vital capacity $> 10 \text{ ml/kg}$, respiratory rate $< 30/\text{minute}$, $\text{PaO}_2 > 9 \text{ kPa}$ on not more than 40% FiO_2 and 10 cmH_2O of PEEP and a normal PaCO_2 . Setting: South Africa, respiratory ICU
Interventions	Intervention: Mandatory minute volume set at 75% of the ventilator minute volume prior to commencing weaning. Achieved by decreasing frequency to an appropriate reference value while maintaining the same tidal volume as the reference point. Weaning was considered complete after 4 hours of spontaneous breathing Control: Weaning commenced by decreasing the ventilator rate by two breaths per minute at 3-4 hourly intervals between 06:00 and 18:00 hours, to a rate of 4 breaths per minute. Following a 3-4 hour period of stability at this rate the ventilator was switched from IMV to CPAP. If initial weaning criteria were violated, the ventilator rate was returned to the previous setting. Weaning was considered complete after 4 hours of spontaneous breathing

Davis 1989 (Continued)

Outcomes	Weaning success Duration of successful wean Frequency of arterial blood gas sampling Number of ventilator adjustments	
Notes	Duration of weaning success: time from randomization to 4 hours of independent spontaneous breathing	
<i>Risk of bias</i>		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not reported
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not reported
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	No attrition, no missing outcome data
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All pre-specified outcomes are reported
Other bias	Low risk	No other sources of bias detected
Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias) All outcomes	High risk	Assumed as high risk due to the nature of the intervention
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Unable to confirm whether clinicians or research staff not involved in patient care recorded outcomes

Dongelmans 2009

Methods	Single centre randomized controlled trial	
Participants	128 adults (intervention 64:control 64) ≥ 18 years of age after uncomplicated coronary artery bypass grafting without a history of pulmonary disease or haemodynamic instability. Excluded patients comprised those with pulmonary disease or history of pulmonary surgery, intraaortic balloon pump on admission to ICU, receiving inotropes and/pr vasopressors at a rate higher than usual (upper limits in milligrams per hour: dopamine 20, norepinephrine 0.5, dobutamine 25, and epinephrine at any rate) Setting: The Netherlands, 28 bed ICU of academic medical centre. Staffing comprised 140 nurses, 8 full-time intensivists, 8 ICU fellows, and 10 residents of other specialties	
Interventions	Intervention: Adaptive Support Ventilation with the minute ventilation was set at 100% of the theoretical value based on predicted body weight, FiO_2 of 50%, PEEP of 10 cmH_2O (maintained constant for 4 hours after which it was set to 5 cmH_2O until	

	<p>extubation), maximum airway pressure of 35 cmH₂O equivalent to an absolute P_{insp} limit of 25cmH₂O, flow trigger 2 L/s. Arterial blood gas (ABG) analysis was performed 30 minutes after connection to the ventilator. If the PaCO₂ was <3.5 kPa or >5.5 kPa, minute ventilation was decreased or increased by 10%. Any modification of ventilator settings was followed after 30 minutes by an ABG. Extubation criteria included: responsive and cooperative, urine output >0.5 mL/kg/hr, chest drainage <100 mL last hour, no uncontrolled arrhythmia, rectal temperature >36.0C, respiratory frequency of 10-20 breaths/min without machine-controlled breaths, FiO₂ 40% and P_{insp} 5-10 cmH₂O for 30 minutes.</p> <p>Control: Pressure Control Ventilation with VT of 6-8 mL/kg predicted body weight, respiratory rate of 12-15 breaths/min, FiO₂, PEEP and flow trigger at same settings as ASV group. Respiratory rate was increased or decreased to satisfy ASV PaCO₂ criteria on ABG taken 30 minutes after ventilation commenced. Any modification of ventilator settings was followed after 30 minutes by an ABG. When patients breathed spontaneously, the mode was switched to PSV set at 10 cmH₂O, support was decreased to 5-10 cmH₂O depending on VT. Extubation criteria were the same as ASV group</p>	
Outcomes	Primary endpoint was time to tracheal extubation. Secondary endpoints were the duration of assisted ventilation as the proportion of the total duration of ventilation of MV and switches from controlled ventilation to assisted ventilation. Also studied ASV with respect to VT, airway pressures, respiratory rate, and ABG results	
Notes		
<i>Risk of bias</i>		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Allocation in random order (author communication)
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Opaque, sealed envelopes used
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	No attrition, no missing outcome data
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All pre-specified outcomes are reported
Other bias	Low risk	No other sources of bias detected
Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias) All outcomes	High risk	Not possible due to nature of intervention
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Outcome assessors were not involved in daily care of patients. Assumed as low risk due to the objective nature of outcomes (weaning commencement/extubation)

Hendrix 2006

Methods	Single centre randomized controlled trial
Participants	20 consecutive male adult patients undergoing coronary artery bypass grafting. Patients with a history of respiratory disease or FEV1 \leq 70% were excluded from the study Setting: Germany, university hospital, cardiac surgery ICU
Interventions	Intervention: After surgery, patients were admitted to the ICU and ventilated with the Siemens 300A/Automode ventilator set to pressure regulated volume control with VT of 10 mL/kg body weight, I:E time of 1:1, upper pressure limit of 30 cmH ₂ O and Automode function on. Patients weaned and extubated according to standard criteria. After initial FiO ₂ weaning per protocol, all ventilator changes were automated (ventilator mode changes automatically from PRVC to VS when patient triggers the ventilator) Control: Ventilated with conventional Siemens 300 ventilator using same ventilator settings as intervention group with the exception of Automode activation. Patients weaned and extubated according to same standard criteria as intervention group. When patients became fully alert, the ventilator mode was changed to CPAP with 10 cmH ₂ O pressure support by the ICU nurse or physician).
Outcomes	Time to extubation Postoperative function of the cardiovascular system (cardiac index and mixed venous saturation) Use of analgesic and sedative drugs Adverse events including arrhythmias and blood loss Pulmonary function testing five days postoperatively
Notes	

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Sequence generation described as "eligible patients were randomized in blocks of two prior to undergoing CABG. Only one single Automode ventilator was available for use. Thus, two patients undergoing surgery on the same day were randomized either to the Siemens 300 A/Automode ventilator (group A) or to the conventional Siemens 300 ventilator (group B) using slips of paper in a box technique which was our procedure to randomize patients. Once the Automode ventilator was again ready for use, two more patients could again be randomized" It is unclear whether the 2 patients were randomly selected from the total number of CABG patients undergoing surgery that day (no response from author regarding clarification of this issue)

Hendrix 2006 (Continued)

Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	It is unclear if the writing on the slips of paper were visible to the person selecting them (no response from author regarding clarification of this issue)
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	No attrition, no missing outcome data
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All pre-specified outcomes are reported
Other bias	Low risk	No other sources of bias detected
Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias) All outcomes	High risk	Not possible to blind personnel
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Unable to confirm if outcome assessors were also involved in the daily care of patients

Jouvet 2013

Methods	Single centre pilot randomized controlled trial
Participants	<p>30 children (intervention 15; control 15) between 2 years and 18 years with body weight ≥ 15 kg admitted for any reason, except cardiac surgery and mechanically ventilated for at least 12 hours. Children were included if the Evita XL ventilator with SmartCare/PS™ was available and if they fulfilled the following weaning criteria during the screening periods (Monday to Friday mornings): patient able to breath spontaneously, no vasopressor or inotrope medication (other than digoxin or low dose dopamine ($< 5 \mu\text{g/kg/min}$)), $\text{FiO}_2 \leq 60\%$ in order to obtain oxygen saturation by pulse oxymetry $\geq 95\%$, positive end expiratory pressure (PEEP) $\leq 8 \text{ cmH}_2\text{O}$, plateau pressure $\leq 25 \text{ cmH}_2\text{O}$, $\text{PaCO}_2 < 70 \text{ mmHg}$ on the most recent blood gas, endotracheal tube leak $\leq 20\%$. Patients were excluded if: they had severe chronic respiratory insufficiency due to neurological, neuromuscular or lung diseases prior to PICU admission, primary pulmonary hypertension or cyanotic congenital heart disease with unrepaired or palliated right to left intracardiac shunt, children with extubation anticipated on the day of inclusion, not expected to survive, with a decision to withdraw care or with no parental consent</p> <p>Setting: Canada, PICU</p>
Interventions	<p>Intervention: After passing a pressure support test, patients were weaned with SmartCare/PS™. PEEP was adjusted using a written protocol; if the child's clinical status deteriorated, ventilation mode was switched back to Assist Control. The decision to extubate was made by the attending clinician</p> <p>Control: Physicians weaned according to their discretion in the absence of formal guidelines, including modification of ventilator mode if required. The decision to extubate was made by the attending clinician</p>

Outcomes	Time from randomization to first extubation Weaning failure defined as resumption of mechanical ventilation within 48 hours after extubation Total duration of mechanical ventilation Length of ICU stay Length of hospital stay	
Notes	Pilot study included 30 patients corresponding to 10% of the sample size needed for a multi-centre RCT	
<i>Risk of bias</i>		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	30 sealed enveloped contained either control or Smartcare group sheet of paper (15 each) in a random manner and numbered from 1 to 30
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Opaque envelopes used
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	No attrition, no missing outcome data
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All pre-specified outcomes are reported
Other bias	Low risk	No other sources of bias detected
Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias) All outcomes	High risk	Blinding of personnel not possible
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Outcome assessors were not involved in daily care of patients. Assumed as low risk due to the objective nature of outcomes (weaning commencement/extubation)

Kirakli 2011

Methods	Single centre randomized controlled trial
Participants	97 COPD patients (intervention 49; control 48) with a confirmed diagnosis according to the Global Initiative for COPD criteria. Patients were excluded if they had severe cardiac or neurologic disease, sepsis, mechanical ventilation for < 24 hours, and those with a tracheostomy. Patients receiving non-invasive ventilation prior to intubation were not enrolled as care for these patients was managed by non-intensivist pulmonary physicians Setting: Turkey, 30 bed respiratory ICU of an education and research hospital specializing in pulmonary diseases and thoracic surgery

Interventions	Intervention: Adaptive Support Ventilation with minute ventilation set at 100 mL/kg ideal body weight (IBW). Minute ventilation was decreased to 50 mL/kg IBW after 1 hour and to 30 mL/kg after 2 hours if patient was haemodynamically stable, had normal mental status and no signs of anxiety, somnolence or dyspnoea. Patients underwent a 2 hour trial of spontaneous breathing at 30 mL/kg prior to extubation Control: Initial pressure support (above PEEP) was set at 15 cmH ₂ O. Pressure support was evaluated at least every 30 minutes and titrated to keep the respiratory rate ≤ 35 breaths/min and gradually decreased to 7 cmH ₂ O by 2 cmH ₂ O intervals. In patients achieving 7 cmH ₂ O pressure support, a 2-hour trial of spontaneous breathing was performed before extubation	
Outcomes	Weaning duration defined as time from randomization to spontaneous breathing Weaning success defined as independence from mechanical ventilation (invasive or non-invasive) for ≥ 48 hours after extubation Respiratory parameters at the end of the weaning period Duration of ventilation defined as the time from the initiation of ventilator support to the permanent cessation of any form of ventilatory support (invasive or non-invasive) ICU length of stay	
Notes		
<i>Risk of bias</i>		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Used an online randomization website (author communication)
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Opaque, sealed envelopes (author communication)
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	No attrition, no missing outcome data (though discrepancies of reported data in sections of published manuscript resolved with author)
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All pre-specified outcomes are reported
Other bias	Low risk	No other sources of bias detected
Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias) All outcomes	High risk	Not possible due to nature of intervention
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Assumed as low risk due to the objective nature of outcomes (weaning commencement/extubation) States “weaning and extubation performed by pulmonary and critical care physicians

		who were not aware of the study". Clarification by the author as to the meaning of this statement provided as "The physicians were aware of the modes and which protocol they were going to use for that individual patient so that they could set the ventilator parameters but they were not aware of the hypothesis and the aim of the study"
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Lellouche 2006

Methods	Multi-centre randomized controlled trial	
Participants	147 adult patients (intervention 74: control 70) ventilated for ≥ 24 hours using an assisted mode screened for eligibility before usual criteria for weaning were present. Inclusion criteria were: pulse oximetry $>90\%$ with $\text{FiO}_2 \leq 50\%$ and $\text{PEEP} \leq 8 \text{ cmH}_2\text{O}$, no need for epinephrine or norepinephrine at a rate $> 1 \text{ mg/h}$, body temperature between 36 to 39°C , and a stable neurological status with little or no sedation. Eligibility criteria included absence of: a do-not-resuscitate order, expected poor short-term prognosis, tracheostomy, and cardiac arrest with poor neurological prognosis Setting: 5 teaching hospital medical-surgical ICUs in 4 countries in Europe (Belgium, Spain, France, Switzerland)	
Interventions	Intervention: SmartCare/PST TM Control: Weaning according to local practice (guidelines [weaning protocols] were available in 4/5 ICUs). Ventilator settings were chosen by the physician in charge of the patient. Weaning comprised once daily or more screening for criteria to decide for a SBT (T-piece or PSV \pm PEEP). SBT could be performed as soon as criteria were present; after passing a SBT standard extubation criteria were used	
Outcomes	Time to successful extubation defined as the time from inclusion until successful extubation (followed by 72 hours without ventilator support) Total duration of ventilation Duration of ventilatory support until first extubation Length of ICU stay Length of hospital stay Number of complications in the ICU Number of cases of nosocomial pneumonia ICU mortality Hospital mortality	
Notes	Proportion and time to satisfying extubation criteria not reported for usual care arm	
Risk of bias		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement

Lellouche 2006 (Continued)

Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Computer generated by blocks of six
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Randomization was centralized, concealed and generated by electronic mail system
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Attrition reported, analysis according to ITT, no missing outcome data
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All pre-specified outcomes are reported
Other bias	Low risk	No other sources of bias detected
Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias) All outcomes	High risk	Blinding of personnel not possible
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Unable to confirm if outcome assessors were involved in daily patient care

Liu 2013

Methods	Single centre randomized controlled trial
Participants	<p>Difficult-to-wean defined as: failed SBT due to (1) impaired gas exchange ($\text{SpO}_2 < 90\%$; $\text{PaO}_2 < 60$ mmHg; increase in $\text{PaCO}_2 > 10$ mmHg); (2) haemodynamic instability (heart rate changed $> 20\%$; systolic BP > 180 or < 90 mmHg; BP changed $> 20\%$; vasopressors required); (3) unstable ventilatory pattern (> 35 breaths/minutes; $\text{VT} < 4$ ml/kg); (4) change in mental status (somnolence, coma, agitation, anxiety), diaphoresis, and other onset or worsening of discomfort deemed by the clinical team</p> <p>Control: Protocolized weaning based on local written weaning guidelines consisting of a daily weaning readiness screen, followed by a 30-minute SBT (CPAP 5 cmH_2O or added 5–8 cmH_2O pressure support) if screen criteria were fulfilled. If the criteria were not fulfilled, a new screen was performed the next morning. Patients who did not reach the criteria for failed SBT were weaned. The SBT could be stopped before 30 minutes with patients were returned to the previous ventilation mode until the next daily screening</p>
Interventions	Intervention: Patients were ventilated using SmartCare/PS until recommendation of “consider separation” appeared or switched back to assist/control ventilation if weaning failed. Decision for extubation was made by attending physicians based on the acceptable blood gas levels and sufficient cough
Outcomes	<p>Weaning duration (time from inclusion to first extubation)</p> <p>Ventilation duration</p> <p>ICU LOS</p> <p>ICU mortality</p> <p>Reintubation</p>

Liu 2013 (Continued)

	Post-extubation NIV ICU complications VAP	
Notes		
<i>Risk of bias</i>		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Used a random digits table to randomly allocate eligible patients. Not stated who was responsible for this so bias is unclear
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not described
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	All outcome data presented. No registered protocol reported, but 'usual' outcomes our reported
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All pre-specified outcomes are reported
Other bias	Low risk	No other sources of bias detected
Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias) All outcomes	High risk	Not blinded
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Unable to confirm if outcome assessors were also involved in the daily care of patients

Petter 2003

Methods	Single centre randomized controlled trial	
Participants	34 adult patients (18 intervention; 16 control) undergoing elective cardiac surgery under cardiopulmonary bypass. Preoperative exclusion criteria were age >80 years, preoperative left ventricle ejection fraction < 30%, COPD requiring bronchodilator therapy, significant hepatic disease, renal failure, history of seizure and stroke. After enrolment, patients presenting with any condition hindering rapid extubation were excluded. Specific post-operative exclusion criteria were: severe postoperative haemorrhage, surgical complication requiring reoperation, postoperative cardiac failure requiring large dose inotropes, refractory hypoxaemia, and neurological complication precluding patient collaboration Setting: Switzerland, surgical ICU	
Interventions	Intervention: Adaptive support ventilation with initial settings at the default value and peak pressure less than 25 cmH ₂ O. ABG analysis was performed 10 minutes after connection to the ventilator. If PaCO ₂ was ≤ 38 mmHg or ≥ 50 mmHg, the % minute vol-	

	ume was decreased or increased by 20% (phase 1). All subsequent changes to ventilator settings were assessed after 10 minutes via ABG analysis. Phase 1 ended with recovery of spontaneous breathing (no controlled breaths for 20 minutes). Phase 2 ended when PS had decreased to 10 cmH ₂ O (within 2 cmH ₂ O for 20 minutes). ABGs and clinical criteria for weaning failure were assessed. Phase 3 comprised manual setting of PS to 5 cmH ₂ O for 10 minutes, if no contraindications were present, the patient was extubated Control: reflected current standard of care. Initial settings were SIMV, VT of 8 mL/kg IBW, respiratory rate of 12 breaths/min. ABG management was identical to ASV group. When patients breathed spontaneously for ≥ 6 breaths/min, PS 10cmH2O was set manually. After 20 minutes, ABG and clinical criteria were assessed. If weaning was stopped if not tolerated, and patient reassessed after 20 minutes for further reduction of PS. Phase 3 performed same as ASV group	
Outcomes	Duration of tracheal intubation Mechanical ventilation transitions from controlled to assisted ventilation Number of ventilator setting changes performed by healthcare workers Number of alarms Amount of sedative and analgesic administered	
Notes	Underpowered study as identified by authors	
<i>Risk of bias</i>		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	A study nurse not involved in the study wrote the assignment (ASV versus control equal number of each) on cards. She shuffled the cards, put them in sealed envelopes, and numbered the envelopes. Hence the sequence of allocation was defined by the shuffling of the cards, but unknown to the investigators (author communication)
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Opaque envelopes used (author communication)
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Attrition reported, analysis according to ITT, no missing outcome data
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All pre-specified outcomes are reported
Other bias	Low risk	No other sources of bias detected
Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias) All outcomes	High risk	Personnel not blinded

Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	Outcome assessors were not blinded and were also involved in the daily care of patients
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Ramet 2002

Methods	Single centre pilot randomized controlled trial
Participants	18 infants (aged > 4 weeks confirmed through author communication) receiving mechanical ventilation with pressure regulated volume control (PRVC)
Interventions	Intervention: Automode (Siemens Servo 300) with automated switching from PRVC to volume support ventilation (VSV) Control: manual (clinician) switching from PRVC to VSV
Outcomes	Days of ventilation Randomization to extubation in hours Randomization to switching to VSV in hours Comfort score on extubation
Notes	Available in abstract form only

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not reported and unable to obtain additional information
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not reported and unable to obtain additional information
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Unable to obtain additional information
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Unable to obtain information to make an assessment - cannot find trial registration
Other bias	Unclear risk	Study only available in abstract form
Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias) All outcomes	High risk	Due to intervention type assumed personnel not blinded
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Unable to obtain information to make an assessment

Rose 2008

Methods	Single centre randomized controlled trial
Participants	<p>102 adult patients (51 intervention: 51 control) requiring > 24 hours of mechanical ventilation on a mandatory ventilator mode. Patients tolerating PSV within 24 hours of ventilation were excluded. Other eligibility criteria included: PEEP \leq 8 cmH₂O, PaO₂/FiO₂ ratio >150 or SaO₂ \geq 90% with FiO₂ \leq 0.5, plateau pressure \leq 30 cmH₂O, haemodynamic stability, peripheral body temperature 36-39 C, stable neurological status with GCS >4, and no anticipated (within 2 hours) for transport or surgery). Final study inclusion criterion was completion of 30 minute SBT to determine tolerance of pressure support</p> <p>Exclusion criteria: no SmartCare/PS™ enabled ventilator available, CNS disorder with anticipated poor outcome</p> <p>Setting: Australia, 390 bed acute tertiary referral hospital with 100,000 admissions/annum, 24 bed mixed medical/surgical/trauma ICU. Nurse:patient ratio 1:1, 9 intensivists providing twice daily structured rounds supported by 26 hospital medical officers (registrars and residents)</p>
Interventions	<p>Intervention: SmartCare/PS™. Extubation remained at the discretion of the attending clinician</p> <p>Control: clinicians instructed to wean PS and PEEP according to usual local practice in the absence of formal guidelines. Clinicians were instructed to wean PS as able with no constraints as to the frequency or size of PS adjustment while maintaining patients in the same zone of comfort as described for SmartCare/PS™. Extubation remained at the discretion of the attending clinician</p>
Outcomes	<p>Time to separation defined as time in hours from randomization to separation potential</p> <p>Total duration of weaning defined as time from randomization to successful extubation</p> <p>Time from intubation to first extubation</p> <p>Time from intubation to successful extubation</p> <p>ICU length of stay</p> <p>Hospital length of stay</p> <p>ICU mortality</p> <p>Reintubation</p> <p>Post-extubation NIV</p>
Notes	

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Computer generated block randomization
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Sequential opaque envelopes
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Attrition reported, analysis according to ITT, no missing outcome data

Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All pre-specified outcomes are reported
Other bias	Low risk	No other sources of bias detected
Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias) All outcomes	High risk	Personnel not blinded
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Assumed as low risk due to the objective nature of outcomes (weaning commencement/extubation). Outcome assessor was independent from those managing care

Roth 2001

Methods	Single centre randomized controlled trial
Participants	40 consecutive adult patients (intervention 20; control 20) with healthy lungs who underwent brain surgery. Included patients were those who required controlled ventilation and who were expected to show spontaneous breathing efforts during the 1st 24 hours after ICU admission. Patients with central depression of breathing drive expected to last > 24 hours as well as patients with mechanical or neural damage making spontaneous breathing efforts impossible were excluded Setting: Germany, university hospital, 18 bed ICU
Interventions	Intervention: Automode on Siemens Servo ventilator 300. Initial stabilisation period on PCV for 20 minutes after ICU admission. Automode was activated by automatically switching from PCV to PSV in cases of repeated triggering of the ventilator and back in cases of apnoea of more than 12 seconds. Patients were considered ready for extubation when there was stable spontaneous breathing without switching back to controlled ventilation Control: SIMV with an initial stabilisation period on PCV for 20 minutes after ICU admission. Mandatory frequency was initially reduced by 2 breaths/min if the ventilator indicated triggering by the patient. Mandatory frequency was further decreased in cases of stability and/or an increase in minute ventilation over the pre-set alarms. If MV dropped below the pre-set alarms, the mandatory rate was increased again. Adjustments were made by the nurses, supervised by the physicians. Manual switching to PSV was done in cases of stable spontaneous breathing. Alarm levels for MV were set to 8-% and 120% of values measured in the stabilisation phase In both groups, pressure levels were adjusted within a range of 10-15 cmH ₂ O to reach a VT of 10 mL/kg body weight. Respiratory rate adjusted to reach normoventilation. I:E ratio set to 1:2, FiO ₂ 0.35-40 (PaO ₂ 90 mmHg), PEEP 5 cmH ₂ O. PSV was adjusted to the same inspiratory pressure used during PCV. PS, PEEP and FiO ₂ were kept constant until extubation. Patients were considered ready for extubation when there was stable spontaneous breathing without the need for mandatory background frequency

Roth 2001 (Continued)

Outcomes	Total weaning time Number of manipulations Respiratory and circulatory parameters measured at randomization (T0), 20 minutes after the 1st spontaneous breathing activity (T20), 2 hours after T20 (T140), before extubation (Tex), and 1 hour after extubation (Tpost) Variability of ventilation (range of PaCO ₂ levels)	
Notes		
<i>Risk of bias</i>		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not reported
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not reported
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	No attrition, no missing outcome data
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All pre-specified outcomes are reported
Other bias	Low risk	No other sources of bias detected
Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias) All outcomes	High risk	Not possible to blind personnel
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Unable to confirm if outcome assessors were also involved in the daily care of patients

Schädler 2012

Methods	Single centre (multiple ICU) randomized controlled trial
Participants	300 surgical adult patients (Intervention 150; Control 150) who at 09:00 AM, were ventilated for longer than 9 hours since ICU admission. Exclusion criteria comprised: cerebral surgery/trauma, age <18 years, do-not-resuscitate order, duration of ventilation > 24 hours, patients already enrolled in the study Setting: Germany, academic tertiary hospital, 3 ICUs serving all surgical disciplines (10 bed cardiovascular ICU, 10 bed interdisciplinary ICU and 8 bed surgical ICU). ICUs staffed with a 1:2 nurse:patient ratio. During daytime a board certified physician was responsible for medical care + 1 resident for 3 shifts per day and 1 consultant on-call. Daily ward round carried out by 2-3 experienced intensivists, one resident, one consultant microbiologist and 1-2 nurses

Interventions	<p>In both study arms, haemodynamically stable patients (maximal continuous infusion of epinephrine or norepinephrine of 0.01 mg/kg/h) were assessed with a 30 minute pressure support test initiated by the responsible physician or during study visits if clinically indicated. Patients were switched from PCV to PSV with PS between 15 to 30 cmH₂O and identical settings of FiO₂ and PEEP. Patients passed the PS test if remained clinically stable, spontaneous breaths were <35 per minute, VT ≥ 6 mL/kg predicted body weight with allowed PS, SpO₂ ≥ 90%. Patients successfully passing the PS test were then weaned according to the allocated group</p> <p>Intervention: SmartCare/PS™ via Evita XL ventilators with night rest and automatic tube compensation turned off and using a heat and moisture exchange filter. Readiness for extubation was identified by SmartCare/PS™. Extubation or end of ventilator therapy for tracheostomized patients occurred when the following criteria were satisfied: PaO₂/FiO₂ >200, patient awake and cooperative, sufficient airway protection or GCS >8, effective cough, and no surgical indication</p> <p>Control: Standardized weaning protocol. Adjustment of PS at least 3 times per day by 2 or 3 cmH₂O with the aim of maintaining the spontaneous breath rate ≤ 35 and good clinical adaptation. PS was increased if the spontaneous breath rate was >35 for longer than 3 minutes. A daily SBT lasting 30 minutes was commenced when PS ≤ 12 cmH₂O, PEEP ≤ 5 cmH₂O and FiO₂ ≤ 0.5. Patients were deemed to have passed the SBT if the spontaneous breath rate remained below 35, SpO₂ ≥ 90%, patient remained clinically stable (no diaphoresis, agitation or decreased level of consciousness). If a patient failed the SBT the test was reinitiated at least once during the next 24 hours. The same criteria were used for extubation/discontinuation of ventilation as used in the intervention arm</p> <p>Analgesia was maintained by a continuous infusion of sufentanil (range 0.1 to 0.4 µg/kg/h). Sedation was achieved via continuous infusion of propofol (max 4 mg/kg/h) for 24 hours after inclusion. Thereafter bolus doses of midazolam were used to maintain a Ramsay score of 2</p>
Outcomes	<p>Overall ventilation time during ICU stay considering any time the patient required invasive or noninvasive ventilation during the 28 day study period</p> <p>Time in zone of respiratory comfort</p> <p>Number of ventilator manipulations</p> <p>Length of ICU stay</p> <p>Length of hospital stay</p> <p>28-day mortality</p> <p>90-day mortality</p>
Notes	Study sponsored by Dräger Medical via a restricted research grant. Sponsor had no role in the study

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Electronically generated and locally maintained randomization schedule
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Allocation was concealed

Schädler 2012 (Continued)

Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Attrition reported, analysis according to ITT, no missing outcome data
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All pre-specified outcomes are reported
Other bias	Low risk	No other sources of bias detected
Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias) All outcomes	High risk	Not possible to blind personnel
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	Blinding of outcome assessors not possible. Outcome assessors were also involved in the daily care of patients

Stahl 2009

Methods	Randomized controlled trial	
Participants	60 adult patients (Intervention 30; Control 30) who were mechanically ventilated via an endotracheal tube or tracheostomy for at least 24 hours, breathing spontaneously, Ramsay sedation score ≤ 3 , $\text{PaO}_2 > 75 \text{ mmHg}$ or $\text{SaO}_2 > 90\%$ with $\text{FiO}_2 \leq 0.5$, 18-80 years of age, body weight 35-200kg. Exclusion criteria comprised: PEEP $> 10 \text{ cmH}_2\text{O}$, haemodynamic instability with a need for catecholamines, rectal temperature $> 39^\circ\text{C}$, haemoglobin $< 7 \text{ g/dL}$, and pH < 7.2	
Interventions	Intervention: SmartCare/PS TM Control: physician-directed weaning using no strict protocol but recommending PS should be gradually reduced in single steps of no more than 15 cmH ₂ O Extubation criteria: respiratory rate < 30 breaths/min, $\text{PaO}_2 > 75 \text{ mmHg}$ or $\text{SaO}_2 > 90\%$, sufficient airway protection, haemodynamic stability	
Outcomes	Duration of ventilator weaning (time from switching controlled to assisted breathing (CPAP/ASB mode) until extubation or disconnection (if tracheostomy)) Total duration of mechanical ventilation (intubation to successful extubation) Length of ICU stay Reintubation within 48 hours Physician workload (frequency of PS, FiO_2 and PEEP setting changes/hour) Nursing workload (frequency of alarms indicating clean CO ₂ cuvette/hour) ICU and hospital mortality	
Notes		
<i>Risk of bias</i>		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement

Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Randomization list generated using RITA version 1.13a. Stratified randomization with age and duration of mechanical ventilation prior to weaning
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Opaque sealed envelopes
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	All a priori outcomes reported. Analysis according to ITT
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All pre-specified outcomes are reported
Other bias	Unclear risk	Sample size calculation states: based on 80% power to detect a 2 days difference in weaning time, α 0.05 requires 54 patients in each group. Unplanned interim analysis was undertaken because of low recruitment after 1 year: sample size and significance levels were recalculated as $N = 60$. After the 60th patient the trial was stopped for futility
Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias) All outcomes	High risk	Participants, staff and research personnel were unblinded
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Assumed as low risk due to the objective nature of outcomes (weaning commencement/extubation). Communication with authors: outcome assessors were independent from those managing patient care

Strickland 1993

Methods	Single centre pilot randomized controlled trial
Participants	17 patients (9 computer; 7 physician weaning group) judged ready to wean by his/her attending physician and meeting the following criteria: $pH \geq 7.30$ and ≤ 7.50 , $PaCO_2 \geq 30$ and ≤ 50 mmHg, $SaO_2 \geq 90\%$ while on SIMV with a rate of 6-10, VT of 10-15 mL/kg, PS 20 cmH ₂ O and $FiO_2 \leq 0.4$, negative inspiratory force ≤ -20 cmH ₂ O, forced vital capacity ≥ 10 mL/kg, stable haemodynamics and renal function, parenteral or enteral feeding, no ileus, normal electrolytes, infection controlled with antibiotics with oral temperature $\leq 37.7^\circ C$. Post operative patients were excluded unless had been on ventilator for ≥ 3 days. Patients requiring PEEP had to be weaned of (PEEP) prior to entering the study Setting: United States, 3 pulmonary physicians were involved in patient care either in a consultative or attending role
Interventions	Intervention: modification of Puritan Bennett 7200 to allow direct control of the ventilator settings by an external PC-compatible computer that monitored the patient and ventilator data through the serial digital outputs of the pulse oximeter and ventilator. Weaning started at SIMV rate 6, PS 20 cmH ₂ O, $FiO_2 \leq 0.4$, and VT 10-15 mL/kg. The

	computer sampled respiratory rate and SpO ₂ every 5 minutes, and calculated a moving average of VT using the average of the last 5 time 1 minute V _T samples. To proceed with weaning the respiratory rate had to be ≥ 8 and ≤ 30 and V _T ≥ 5 mL/kg (ideal body weight based on height). The system alarmed if SpO ₂ was <90% but no weaning changes were made by the computer based on SpO ₂ . The computer decreased the SIMV rate by 2 every hour until a rate of 2 was reached. The computer then decreased the PS by 2 cmH ₂ O every hour as long as the VT and respiratory rate limits were met. The weaning process was complete when the SIMV rate was 2 and the PS 5 cmH ₂ O. If the 5-minute samples of respiratory rate or V _T were not within acceptable limits, the computer increased the level of ventilator support Control: weaning progressed through SIMV rate and PS reduction as judged appropriate by the patient's physician	
Outcomes	Weaning success Time to wean Number of ABG samples Number of minutes per hour respiratory rate and VT were outside acceptable limits	
Notes		
<i>Risk of bias</i>		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Random number table
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Sealed envelopes
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Attrition reported, no missing outcome data
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All pre-specified outcomes are reported
Other bias	Low risk	No other sources of bias detected
Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias) All outcomes	High risk	Impossible to blind personnel
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Unable to confirm if outcome assessors were also involved in daily patient care

Sulzer 2001

Methods	Single centre randomized controlled trial	
Participants	36 adults undergoing elective coronary artery bypass grafting under cardiopulmonary bypass. preoperative exclusion criteria comprised: age > 75 years, poor myocardial function (preoperative ejection fraction < 30%), COPD requiring bronchodilator therapy, significant hepatic disease, renal failure, history of seizure or stroke. Postoperative exclusion criteria comprised: severe postoperative haemorrhage, repeat operation, postoperative myocardial ischaemia, refractory hypoxaemia, neurologic complication Setting: Switzerland, university hospital, surgical ICU	
Interventions	<p>Intervention: Adaptive support ventilation with initial settings at minute ventilation set at 100%, FiO₂ 100%, PEEP 4 cmH₂O and peak pressure less than 25 cmH₂O. ABG analysis was performed 10 minutes after connection to the ventilator. If PaCO₂ was ≤ 38 mmHg or ≥ 50 mmHg, the % minute volume was decreased or increased by 20% (phase 1). All subsequent changes to ventilator settings were assessed after 10 minutes via ABG analysis. Phase 1 lasted until patients breathed spontaneous at ≥ 6 breaths per minute for 20 minutes. Weaning progressed after ABG was checked and clinical criteria of poor tolerance were ruled out. Continuation of weaning composed of 2 phases lasting at least 20 minutes each. In Phase 2 minute ventilation was lowered by 50%. If ABGs and clinical criteria indicated poor tolerance, phase 1 was reinstated. If ABGs and clinical criteria were satisfactory, weaning progressed to Phase 3. In Phase 3 minute ventilation was lowered by another 50%. At the end of Phase 3, if the patient achieved extubation criteria, pulmonary physiotherapy was performed, followed by extubation</p> <p>Control: reflected current standard of care. Initial settings (Phase 1) were SIMV, VT of 7 mL/kg, respiratory rate of 12 breaths/min. ABG performed after 10 minutes, respiratory rate was lowered or increased to satisfy same criteria as ASV group. When patients breathed spontaneously for ≥ 6 breaths/min for 20 minutes, weaning could progress to Phase 2, according to the criteria defined for the ASV group. The ventilator was set to PSV of 10cmH₂O. ABG and clinical criteria were assessed. If indicating poor tolerance, phase 1 was reinstated, if ABG and clinical criteria were complied with, weaning progressed to Phase 3 in which PS was reduced to 5 cmH₂O. At the end of Phase 3 patients were assessed for extubation according to the same criteria as the ASV group</p>	
Outcomes	Duration of mechanical ventilation (Phases 1, 2 and 3) Amount of sedative and analgesic drugs administered	
Notes		
<i>Risk of bias</i>		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	A study nurse not involved in the study wrote the assignment (ASV versus control equal number of each) on cards. She shuffled the cards, put them in sealed envelopes, and numbered the envelopes. Hence the sequence of allocation was defined by the shuffling of the cards, but unknown to the in-

Sulzer 2001 (Continued)

		vestigators (author communication)
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Sealed opaque envelopes
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Attrition reported, no missing outcome data
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All pre-specified outcomes are reported
Other bias	Low risk	No other sources of bias detected
Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias) All outcomes	High risk	Blinding of personnel not possible
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	Blinding of outcome assessors not possible. Outcome assessors were also involved in the daily care of patients

Taniguchi 2009

Methods	Single centre randomized controlled trial
Participants	106 (53 in each group) postoperative adults (over 18 years), receiving mechanical ventilation after cardiac, thoracic, abdominal or orthopaedic surgery. Excluded patients included neurological surgery and patients with previous pulmonary disease or haemodynamic instability during weaning Setting: Brazil, adult ICU
Interventions	Intervention: mandatory rate ventilation (MRV) automatic, computerised weaning, ventilated with Taema-Horus Ventilator. Initial ventilation was the same as the control group except that to obtain a RR of 15 breaths per minute, the target RR was set at 15 and the minimum RR as 15. When the patient commenced breathing spontaneously the ventilator mode was switched to PSV to achieve a $V_T \geq 8$ mL/kg with PS maximum of 25 cmH ₂ O, target RR of 15 with minimum RR of 8, FiO ₂ to achieve an SpO ₂ of 95%, PEEP 5 cmH ₂ O. The MRV mode then commenced automatic reduction of PS. Control: manual weaning guided by ICU staff comprising PCV targeting a V_T of 8 mL/kg, with a RR of 15 breaths per minute, FiO ₂ to achieve an SpO ₂ of 95%, PEEP of 5 cmH ₂ O. When the patient started breathing spontaneously the ventilator mode was switched to PSV set to achieve V_T of 8 mL/kg, RR/VT less than 80 L, FiO ₂ to achieve an SpO ₂ of 95%, PEEP 5 cmH ₂ O. PSV was reduced every 30 minutes keeping RR/VT < 80 and VT ≥ 8 mL/kg. PSV could be reassessed and possibly decreased every 30 minutes aiming to make the manual weaning as close as possible to the automatic algorithm Patients in both arms were extubated if meeting the following criteria: PSV from 5 - 7 cmH ₂ O, PEEP 5 cmH ₂ O, FiO ₂ 40%, SpO ₂ >95%, haemodynamically stable, adequate mental status, capable of protecting airway, RR/VT < 80L.

Taniguchi 2009 (Continued)

Outcomes	Duration of the weaning process from the moment the patient started to breathe spontaneously until successful extubation Levels of PS, VT, RR, FiO ₂ , SpO ₂ , PEEP and RR/V _T required during the weaning process Need for reintubation Need for NIV	
Notes		
<i>Risk of bias</i>		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Randomly drew folded slips of paper from large envelope
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Slips of paper drawn from opaque envelope
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Attrition reported, analysis according to ITT, no missing outcome data
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All pre-specified outcomes are reported.
Other bias	Low risk	No other sources of bias detected
Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias) All outcomes	High risk	Unable to blind personnel
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	Blinding of outcome assessors not possible. Outcome assessors were also involved in the daily care of patients

Walkey 2011

Methods	Single centre randomized controlled trial
Participants	33 adult patients (15 intervention; 18 control) receiving mechanical ventilation via an endotracheal tube for >48 hours Setting: USA, medical ICU
Interventions	Intervention: SmartCare/PS™ Control: weaning according to usual care
Outcomes	Duration of weaning assessed as the time from the initiation of weaning (randomization) to the time of successful extubation (defined as 48 hours free of mechanical ventilation) Hospital mortality

	Complications (death during wean, ventilator-associated pneumonia during wean, self extubation, reintubation)	
Notes	This trial was terminated early due to slow recruitment	
<i>Risk of bias</i>		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Online random number generator
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Opaque envelopes used
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	High risk	Study terminated early due to slow recruitment. Limited reporting of outcome data
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Study terminated early due to slow recruitment. Limited reporting of outcome data
Other bias	Unclear risk	Study terminated early due to slow recruitment
Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias) All outcomes	High risk	Not possible due to nature of intervention
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Unable to confirm if outcome assessors were also involved in the daily care of patients

Xirouchaki 2008

Methods	Single centre randomized controlled trial
Participants	208 (108 intervention; 100 control) adults ventilated for >36 hours on a controlled mode. Exclusion criteria comprised: severe acidaemia (pH<7.30); severe haemodynamic instability defined as a need for norepinephrine infusion at a rate greater than 0.5 µg/kg/h, and severe bronchospasm
Interventions	Intervention: Proportional Assist Ventilation + using a Puritan-Bennett 840 ventilator and a specific pre-defined written algorithm was used to set and adjust the ventilator. The initial percentage of assist was set to 60-80% PAV+ was continued for 48 hours unless the patients met pre-defined criteria either for switching to CMV (failure criteria) or for breathing without ventilator assistance Control: PSV with pre-defined written algorithms were used to adjust the ventilator settings

Outcomes	Proportion of patients meeting failure criteria in each mode during the 48 hour study period Proportion of patients meeting criteria for unassisted breathing Proportion of patients exhibiting major patient- ventilator dys-synchronies Total amount of sedative, analgesic and vasoactive drugs during the 48 hour of observation	
Notes	Duration of ventilation and ICU stay provided in electronic supplement	
<i>Risk of bias</i>		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Randomization schedule previously generated by a statistician
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Opaque and sealed envelopes used
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Attrition reported, no missing outcome data
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All pre-specified outcomes are reported
Other bias	Low risk	No other sources of bias detected
Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias) All outcomes	High risk	Not possible due to nature of intervention
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	Individuals collecting the results and outcome data were also involved in clinical management of patients

Characteristics of excluded studies [ordered by study ID]

Study	Reason for exclusion
East 1999	Not evaluating a closed loop automated system
Jiang 2006	Quasi-randomized trial. Allocation sequence generated according to case record number (odd and even)
Lellouche 2013	Automated system only used for four hours of study duration not until extubation therefore unable to determine effect on weaning and ventilation

(Continued)

Ma 2010	Quasi-randomized trial. Study subjects separated into two clinical trial groups according to their sequence of ICU admittance
Maloney 2007	Not evaluating a closed loop automated system
McKinley 2001	Reporting data on a subset of trauma patients from the East 1999 study. Not evaluating a closed loop automated system

Characteristics of studies awaiting assessment *[ordered by study ID]*

Alander/Konttiokari 2010

Methods	Randomized controlled trial
Participants	All children from term newborn (37+0 gestational week) to 16 years old needing ventilatory care at least 30 minutes. Exclusion criteria are: any condition that prevents feeding tube positioning. Critical ventilatory or perfusion problems
Interventions	Intervention: NAVA Control: pressure controlled ventilation for newborns; older children will be treated with pressure regulated volume controlled (PRVC) ventilation
Outcomes	Duration of mechanical ventilation Amount of sedative medication needed
Notes	NCT01056939

Domingo 2010

Methods	Single centre parallel group allocation
Participants	Post cardiac surgery patients
Interventions	Intervention: adaptive support ventilation Control: standard protocol using T-piece weaning
Outcomes	Duration of weaning Duration of tracheal intubation Length of ICU stay Length of hospital stay Reintubation Rates of ventilator associated pneumonia and pneumothorax
Notes	Unable to contact authors to confirm randomization methods. Available in abstract form only

Fayed 2013

Methods	Randomized controlled trial
Participants	Adults admitted to ICU for acute exacerbation of COPD
Interventions	Intervention: ASV Control: pressure support weaning
Outcomes	Weaning success Duration of ventilation Length of ICU stay Length of hospital stay
Notes	Presented at 2013 ESICM annual meeting; available in abstract form

Fernandez 2013

Methods	Multi-centre randomized controlled trial
Participants	Adults 18 years of age or older with an anticipated duration of mechanical ventilation > 24 hours
Interventions	Intervention: ventilatory support performed by PAV at 80% assistance (PB 840-plus) FiO ₂ and PEEP according to routine practice Control: assist-control ventilation, tidal volume, FiO ₂ and PEEP set according to routine practice
Outcomes	Duration of mechanical ventilation Gas exchange Short term complications (barotrauma, ARDS, atelectasis and pneumonia) Weaning success weaning success defined as the composite end-point: time to resume spontaneous ventilation, rate of extubation success, need for non-invasive ventilation (NIV) as rescue therapy, and reintubation rate Length of ICU stay Length of hospital stay ICU, hospital, 60-day mortality
Notes	NCT01204281

Lim 2012

Methods	Single centre randomized controlled trial
Participants	Adults 21 years of age or older, assisted-mode mechanical ventilation >24 hrs, stable neurology
Interventions	Intervention: SmartCare/PS Control: usual care
Outcomes	Total weaning time (time from inclusion to extubation without reintubation for 72 hrs)
Notes	Available in abstract form only

Vogelsang 2003

Methods	Single centre randomized controlled trial
Participants	Children over 4 weeks old
Interventions	Intervention: Automode Control: PRVC with manual switch to volume support
Outcomes	Study randomization to successful extubation Duration of ventilation Time from randomization to switch to volume support
Notes	Available in abstract only. Awaiting contact with study authors to clarify participant numbers

Characteristics of ongoing studies [ordered by study ID]**Arnal/Suppini 2013**

Trial name or title	S4: Trial Of Fully Closed-Loop Ventilation In ICU
Methods	Randomized controlled trial
Participants	Unselected ICU patients invasively ventilated for less than 24 hours, with an expected duration of MV longer than 48 hour
Interventions	Intellivent-ASV
Outcomes	Numbers of manual adjustments until mechanical ventilation no longer needed Sedation duration Ventilation parameters Sedation doses Duration of invasive ventilation ICU mortality 28 days mortality
Starting date	November 2012
Contact information	jean-michel.arnal@ch-toulon.fr; jean-philippe.suppini@ch-toulon.fr
Notes	NCT01781091

Beale 2004

Trial name or title	Comparison of an automated weaning programme and a standard clinical weaning protocol for weaning critically ill patients: a randomized controlled trial
Methods	Randomized controlled trial
Participants	Adults ≥ 18 years with suspected or proven infection, presence of a systemic response to the infection within the 48-hour period immediately preceding enrolment into the study, have or have had one or more sepsis-induced organ failures within the 48-hour period immediately preceding enrolment into the study with an expected length of stay in the ICU >3 days
Interventions	Intervention: Smartcare/PS Control: weaning from mechanical ventilation using the standard protocol
Outcomes	Time from the initiation of weaning to successful separation of the patient from the ventilator, defined as no longer needing mechanical ventilation for a minimum period of 48 hours Mortality (28-day, ICU and hospital, six months) Infectious complications (e.g. pneumonia, wound infection, abscesses) APACHE II Organ failure-free days LOS in ICU LOS in hospital (intervention until discharge) Duration of antibiotic treatment (antibiotics days) Duration of ventilation (ventilator days) Duration of renal support
Starting date	Dec 1 2004
Contact information	Richard Beale, Adult ICU East Wing St Thomas' Hospital Lambeth Palace Rd, London, United Kingdom, +44 (0)20 7188 3038, Richard.Beale@gstt.nhs.uk
Notes	ISRCTN82559457

Bosma 2012

Trial name or title	Comparison of weaning on pressure support vs. Proportional Assist Ventilation: a pilot study
Methods	Randomized controlled trial
Participants	Mechanically ventilated patients ≥ 18 years who are ready to begin weaning according to prespecified eligibility criteria, and tolerate 30 minutes of pressure support ventilation, but are not ready for extubation, defined as an $f/V_t > 105$ after 2 minutes of CPAP or failing a spontaneous breathing trial on PSV 5 cmH ₂ O
Interventions	Intervention: weaning with PAV+ Control: weaning using pressure support
Outcomes	Duration of weaning: (1) randomization to successfully passing a spontaneous breathing trial; and (2) randomization to successful extubation Number of ventilator free days (alive and free of mechanical ventilation 28 days post-randomization) Change in asynchrony index from baseline

Bosma 2012 (Continued)

	Change in sedative drug administration from baseline Delirium
Starting date	March 2009
Contact information	KarenJ.Bosma@lhsc.on.ca TraceyC.Bentall@lhsc.on.ca
Notes	

Botha 2013

Trial name or title	PAV+ VENTILATION TRIAL- A randomised controlled trial comparing Proportional Assist Ventilation (PAV+) ventilation and pressure support ventilation in patients eligible for spontaneous ventilation
Methods	Randomized controlled trial
Participants	Adults ventilated for at least 48 hours on a mode other than PAV+ or PS, and deemed ready for spontaneous ventilation
Interventions	Intervention: Proportional Assist Ventilation (PAV+) Control: weaning using pressure support
Outcomes	Duration of ventilation Length of ICU stay Length of hospital stay ICU mortality Hospital mortality Reintubation rate
Starting date	Nov 2012
Contact information	John Botha jbotha@phcn.vic.gov.au
Notes	ACTRN12612001097831

Hadfield/Hart 2013

Trial name or title	A randomised feasibility study examining Neurally-adjusted Ventilatory Assist (NAVA) in patients at high risk of prolonged ventilatory failure during recovery from critical illness
Methods	Randomized controlled trial
Participants	Adults admitted to ICU who are likely to remain intubated and ventilated for greater than 48 hours with a diagnosis of one or a combination of COPD and left and/or right ventricular heart failure
Interventions	Intervention: NAVA Control: usual weaning practice

Hadfield/Hart 2013 (Continued)

Outcomes	Ventilator free days
Starting date	May 2013
Contact information	daniel.hadfield@nhs.net; p.hopkins@nhs.net
Notes	NCT01826890

Kacmarek 2013

Trial name or title	A comparative, multicenter, randomized, controlled study of neurally adjusted ventilatory assist (NAVA) vs. conventional lung protective ventilation in patients with acute respiratory failure
Methods	Multicenter, randomized, controlled trial
Participants	Adults with hypoxaemic or hypercapnic acute respiratory failure requiring intubation and mechanical ventilation anticipated for longer than 72 hrs
Interventions	Intervention: NAVA Control: Conventional lung protective ventilation
Outcomes	Number of invasive ventilator free days Total length of mechanical ventilation (invasive plus non-invasive) Length of ICU stay Length of hospital stay 90 day mortality Ventilator associated pneumonia Incidence of barotrauma Development of acute respiratory distress syndrome
Starting date	January 2013
Contact information	Robert Kacmarek rkacmarek@partners.org; dsulemanji@partners.org
Notes	NCT01730794

Kirakli 2012

Trial name or title	Closed loop ventilation strategy in Intensive Care Unit (ICU) patients
Methods	Randomized controlled trial
Participants	Adults intubated and mechanically ventilated ICU patients for more than 24 hours. Patients receiving ventilation via tracheostomy will be excluded
Interventions	Intervention: Adaptive Support Ventilation according to the patients ideal body weight Control: Pressure Controlled Ventilation (6-8 ml/kg tidal volume) according to our ICU protocol

Kirakli 2012 (Continued)

Outcomes	Duration of mechanical ventilation
Starting date	April 2012
Contact information	Cenk Kirakli, +905052352024, ckirakli@hotmail.com, Izmir Chest Diseases and Surgery Education and Research Hospital, Intensive Care Unit, Izmir, Yenisehir, Turkey
Notes	NCT01472302

Liu/Qiu 2010

Trial name or title	Effect of NAVA on duration of weaning in difficult to wean patients
Methods	Randomized controlled trial
Participants	Intubated patients deemed ready for extubation by the clinical team but who fail the first spontaneous breathing trials (SBT) or weaning attempt
Interventions	Intervention: Neurally adjusted ventilatory assist (NAVA) Control: Pressure Support Ventilation weaning
Outcomes	Duration of weaning was defined as time from study enrolment to extubation Extubation rate defined as the percentage of patients with successful weaning Diaphragmatic function was measured by neuro-ventilatory efficiency (NVE), a ratio of tidal volume to diaphragm electrical activity (Vt/EAdi), and neuro-mechanical efficiency (NME), a ratio of airway pressure to EAdi(Paw/EAdi) during airway occlusion Patient ventilator asynchrony (time delay between neuro-inspiration and ventilator delivery. Time delay between neuro expiration and ventilator cycle-off)
Starting date	December 2010
Contact information	Ling Liu +86-25-83272201 liuling6600@yahoo.com.cn; Haibo Qiu +86-25-83272200 haiboq2000@yahoo.com.cn, Nanjing Zhong-Da Hospital, Nanjing, Jiangsu, China
Notes	NCT01280773

Navalesi 2012

Trial name or title	Effects of two different ventilatory modes i.e., neurally adjusted ventilatory assist and pressure support ventilation on duration of mechanical ventilation and intensive care unit length of stay in patients with acute respiratory failure. A multicenter randomized clinical trial
Methods	Randomized controlled trial
Participants	Adults intubated for >24 hours

Navalesi 2012 (Continued)

Interventions	Intervention: NAVA Control: not stated in trial registration
Outcomes	Duration of mechanical ventilation: intubation to successful extubation(expressed in days) ICU length of stay Hospital length of stay Hospital charges Tracheostomy Reintubation Weaning time
Starting date	September 2012
Contact information	Paolo Navalesi:
Notes	ACTRN12612000815864

Zhu 2011

Trial name or title	Prospective randomized controlled trial comparing adaptive-support ventilation with routine weaning protocol after valve surgery
Methods	Randomized controlled trial
Participants	Adults following cardiac valve surgery (isolated valve surgery or combined with CABG)
Interventions	Intervention: ASV Control: routine weaning
Outcomes	Duration of intubation Postoperative hospital mortality Complications including major bleeding, sepsis Reintubation rate
Starting date	December 2011
Contact information	Zhu Fang +852 26321912 carolchan@cuhk.edu.hk; alicewyong@cuhk.edu.hk
Notes	ChiCTR-TRC-11001794

DATA AND ANALYSES

Comparison 1. Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
1 Total weaning duration by study population	16	1246	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.36 [-0.59, -0.14]
1.1 Mixed and medical ICU population	9	542	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.55 [1.00, -0.10]
1.2 Surgical ICU population	7	704	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.07 [-0.18, 0.04]
2 Total weaning duration by automated system	16	1246	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.36 [-0.59, -0.14]
2.1 Smartcare/PS	7	744	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.33 [-0.58, -0.09]
2.2 ASV	4	295	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.03 [-0.11, 0.05]
2.3 Other	5	207	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.54 [-1.17, 0.08]
3 Total weaning duration by non-automated strategy (control arm)	16	1246	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.36 [-0.59, -0.14]
3.1 usual care	5	238	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.46 [-0.83, -0.10]
3.2 protocolized weaning (non-automated)	11	1008	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.32 [-0.59, -0.06]
4 Randomization to first extubation	11	1039	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.20 [-0.34, -0.05]
5 Ventilation duration by study population	14	1248	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.11 [-0.18, -0.03]
5.1 Mixed and medical ICU population	9	777	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.14 [-0.25, -0.02]
5.2 Surgical ICU population	5	471	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.12 [-0.26, 0.01]
6 Ventilation duration of by automated system	11	1002	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.09 [-0.18, -0.00]
6.1 Smartcare/PS	6	706	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.17 [-0.31, -0.03]
6.2 ASV	5	296	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.04 [-0.15, 0.07]
7 Ventilation duration of by non-automated strategy (control arm)	14	1248	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.11 [-0.18, -0.03]
7.1 Usual care	2	132	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.11 [-0.39, 0.17]
7.2 Protocolized weaning (non-automated)	12	1116	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.11 [-0.19, -0.03]
8 Intubation to randomization	10	631	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.04 [-0.14, 0.05]
9 Secondary outcome 5.1: mortality	12	1128	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.04 [0.83, 1.31]
9.1 ICU mortality	6	254	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.23 [0.58, 2.60]
9.2 30 day mortality	2	397	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.14 [0.75, 1.75]
9.3 Hospital	4	477	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.95 [0.62, 1.45]
10 Hospital length of stay	7	749	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.10 [-0.21, 0.02]
11 ICU length of stay by ICU population	13	1339	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.08 [-0.16, 0.00]

11.1 Mixed or medical ICU population	8	760	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.18 [-0.32, -0.04]
11.2 Surgical ICU population	5	579	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.02 [-0.02, 0.06]
12 ICU length of stay by automated system	12	1131	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.10 [-0.19, -0.01]
12.1 Smartcare/PS	6	707	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.26 [-0.43, -0.09]
12.2 ASV	6	424	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.02 [-0.02, 0.06]
13 Reintubation	13	1081	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.80 [0.61, 1.05]
13.1 Usual care	4	182	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.71 [0.27, 1.88]
13.2 Protocolized weaning (non-automated)	9	899	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.81 [0.61, 1.07]
14 Self-extubation	9	813	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.24 [0.58, 2.67]
15 Non invasive ventilation	12	1314	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.73 [0.53, 1.02]
16 Prolonged mechanical ventilation	7	753	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.51 [0.27, 0.95]
17 Tracheostomy	9	962	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.67 [0.50, 0.90]

Comparison 2. Sensitivity analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, un-logged data duration of weaning

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
1 Weaning duration by ICU population	16	1246	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.75 [-1.85, 0.34]
1.1 Mixed or medical ICU population	9	542	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-18.75 [-32.30, -5.20]
1.2 Surgical ICU population	7	704	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.15 [-0.70, 0.39]
2 Weaning duration by automated system [hours]	16	1246	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.75 [-1.85, 0.34]
2.1 Smartcare/PS	7	744	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-38.46 [-58.11, -18.81]
2.2 ASV	4	295	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-.00 [-0.07, 0.06]
2.3 Other	5	207	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-3.89 [-7.71, -0.07]
3 Weaning duration by non-automated strategy (control arm)	16	1246	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.75 [-1.85, 0.34]
3.1 usual care	5	238	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-30.49 [-60.63, -0.35]
3.2 protocolized (non-automated)	11	1008	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.44 [-1.42, 0.54]
4 Randomization to first extubation	11	1039	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.61 [-1.61, 0.39]
5 Ventilation duration	14	1248	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.55 [-1.38, 0.28]
6 Intubation to randomization	11	664	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.16 [-0.69, 0.36]
7 Hospital length of stay	7	749	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-2.20 [-4.91, 0.52]
8 ICU length of stay	13	1339	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.01 [-0.09, 0.11]

Comparison 3. Sensitivity analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system excluding high risk of bias studies

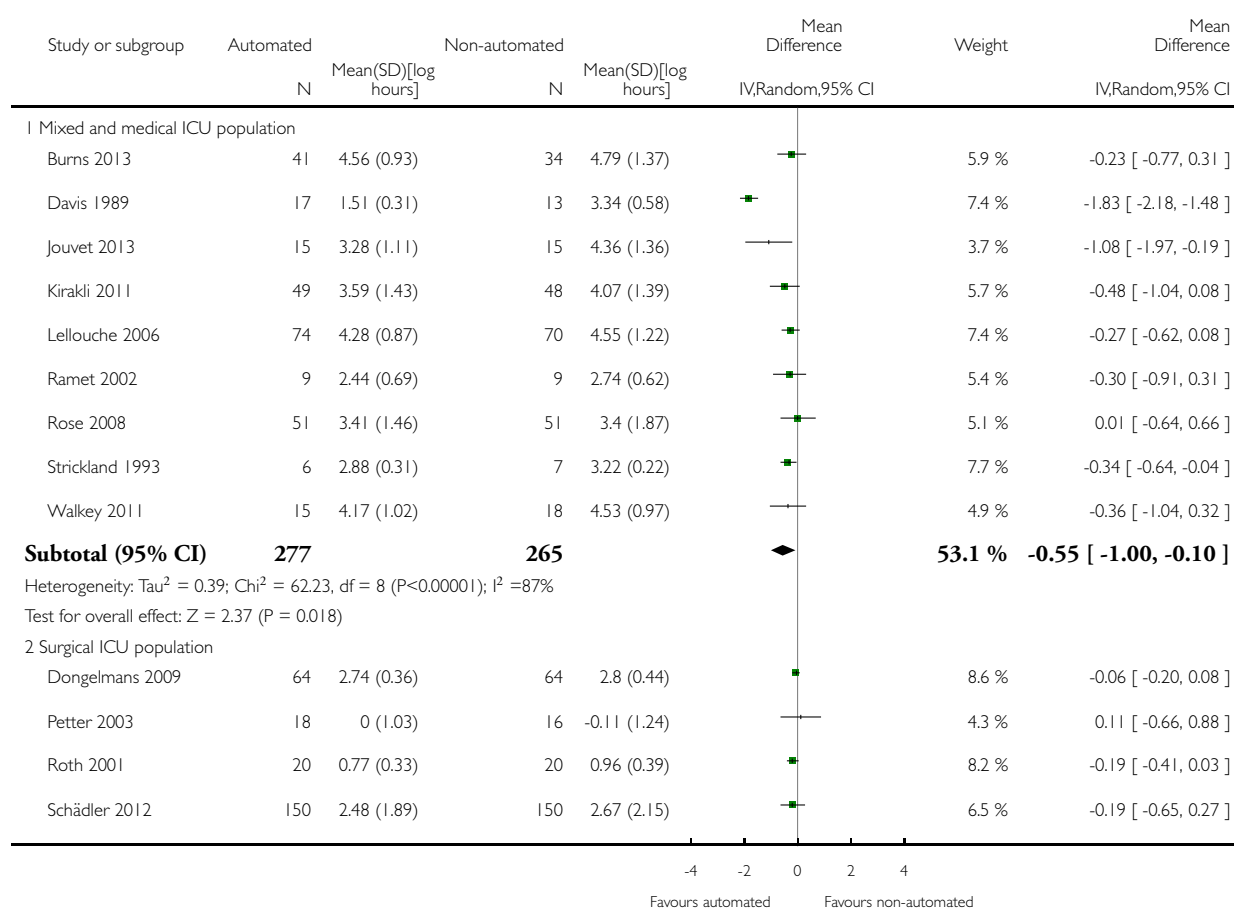
Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
1 Weaning duration	14	1195	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.37 [-0.61, -0.13]

Analysis 1.1. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 1 Total weaning duration by study population.

Review: Automated versus non-automated weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation for critically ill adults and children

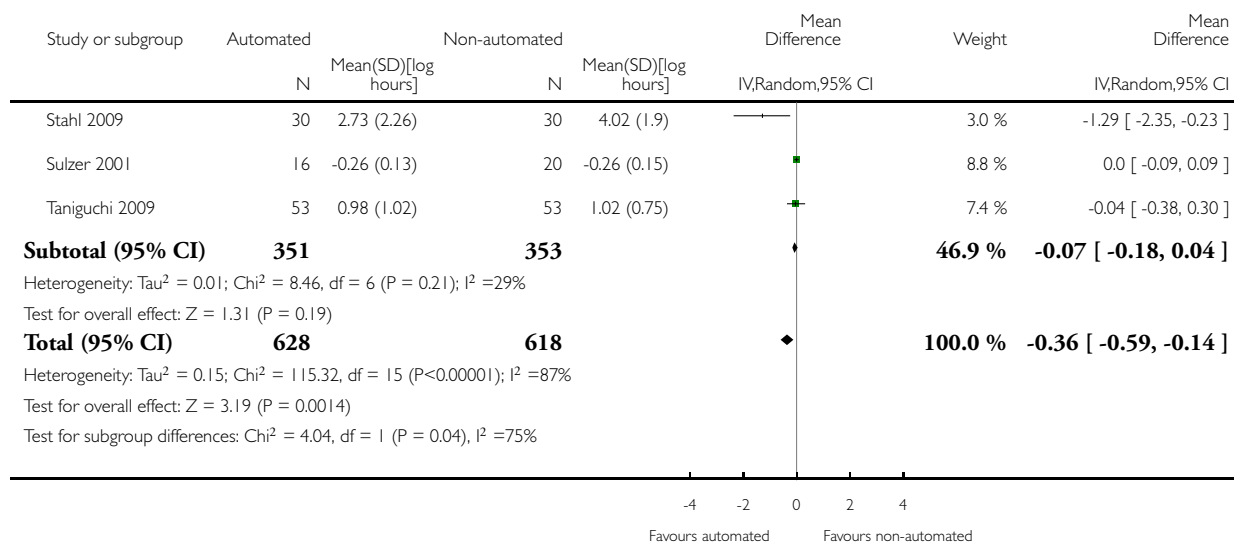
Comparison: 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system

Outcome: 1 Total weaning duration by study population



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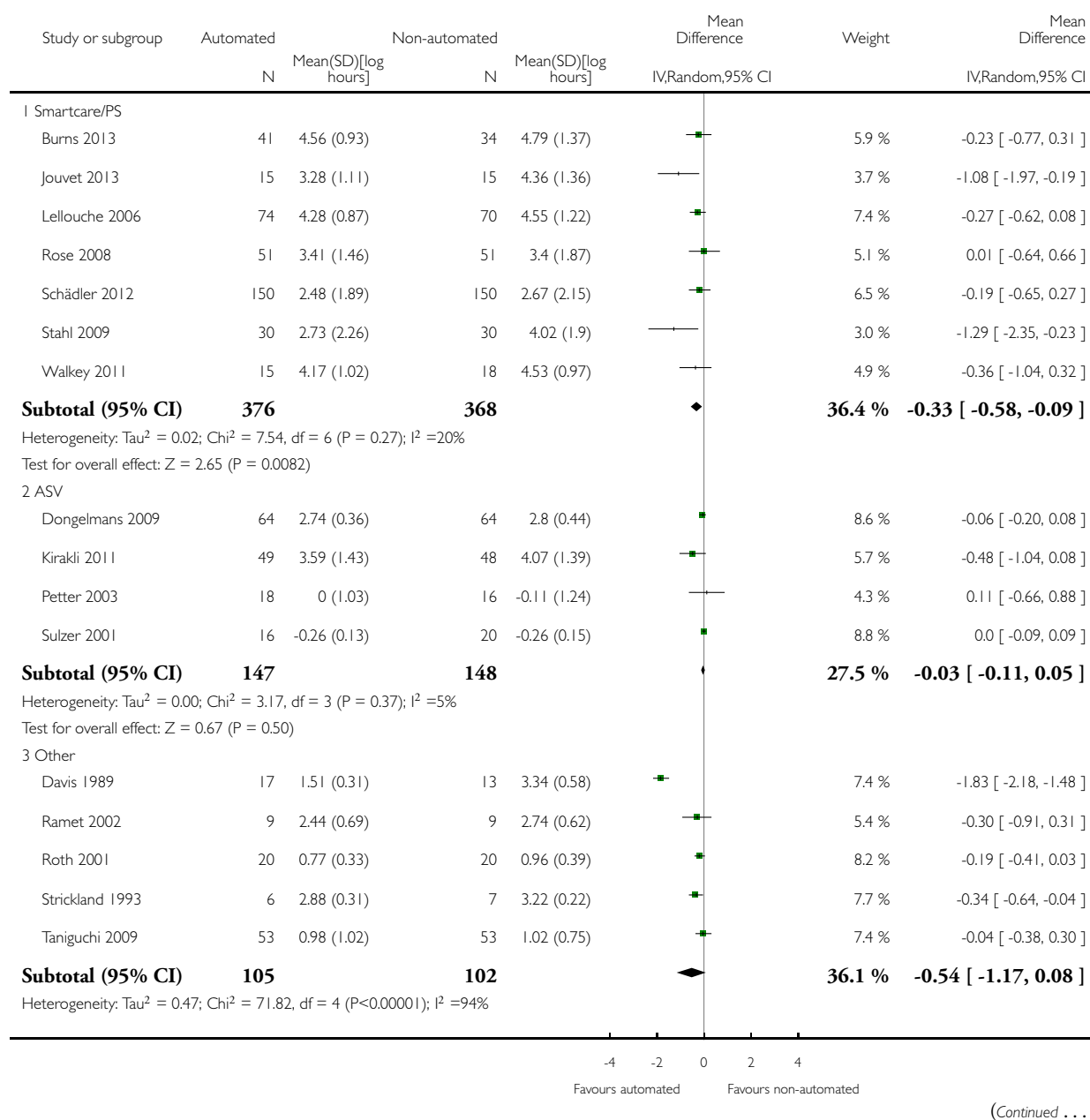


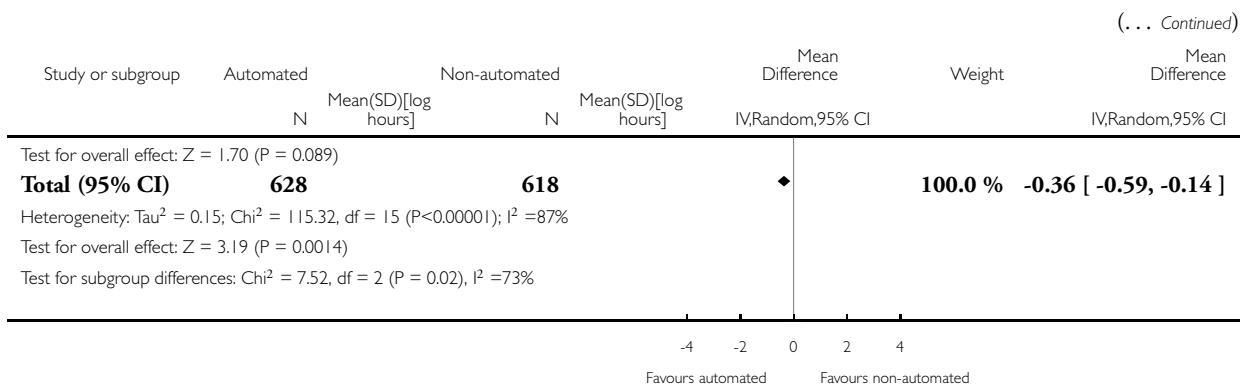
Analysis 1.2. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 2 Total weaning duration by automated system.

Review: Automated versus non-automated weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation for critically ill adults and children

Comparison: 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system

Outcome: 2 Total weaning duration by automated system



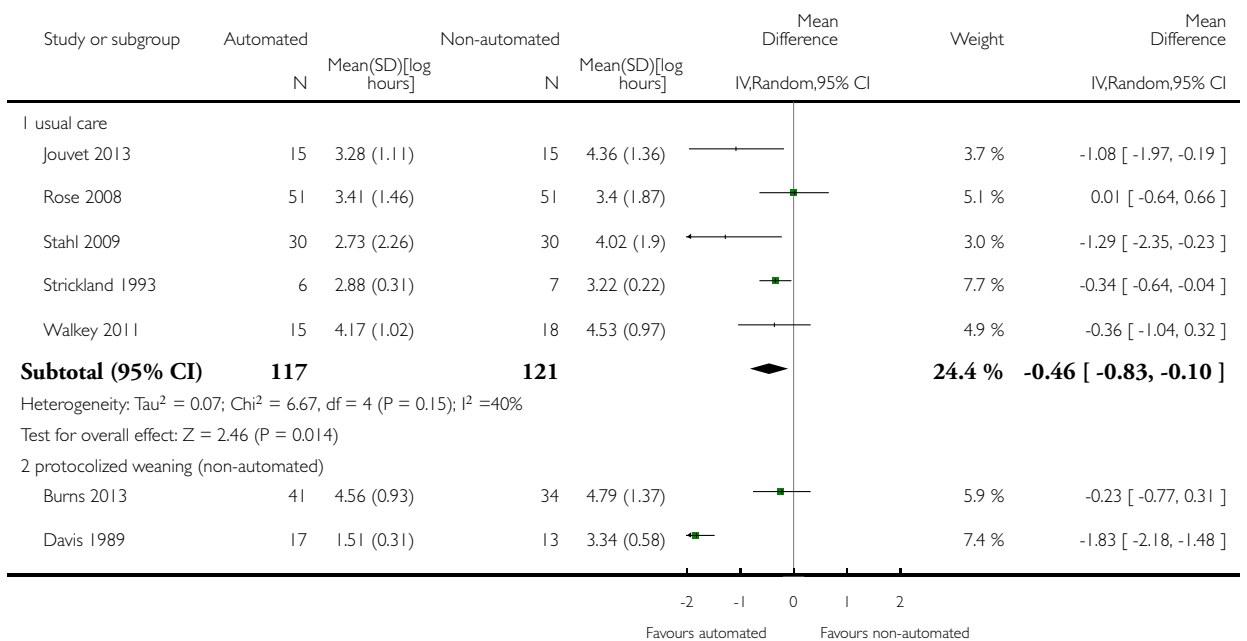


Analysis 1.3. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 3 Total weaning duration by non-automated strategy (control arm).

Review: Automated versus non-automated weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation for critically ill adults and children

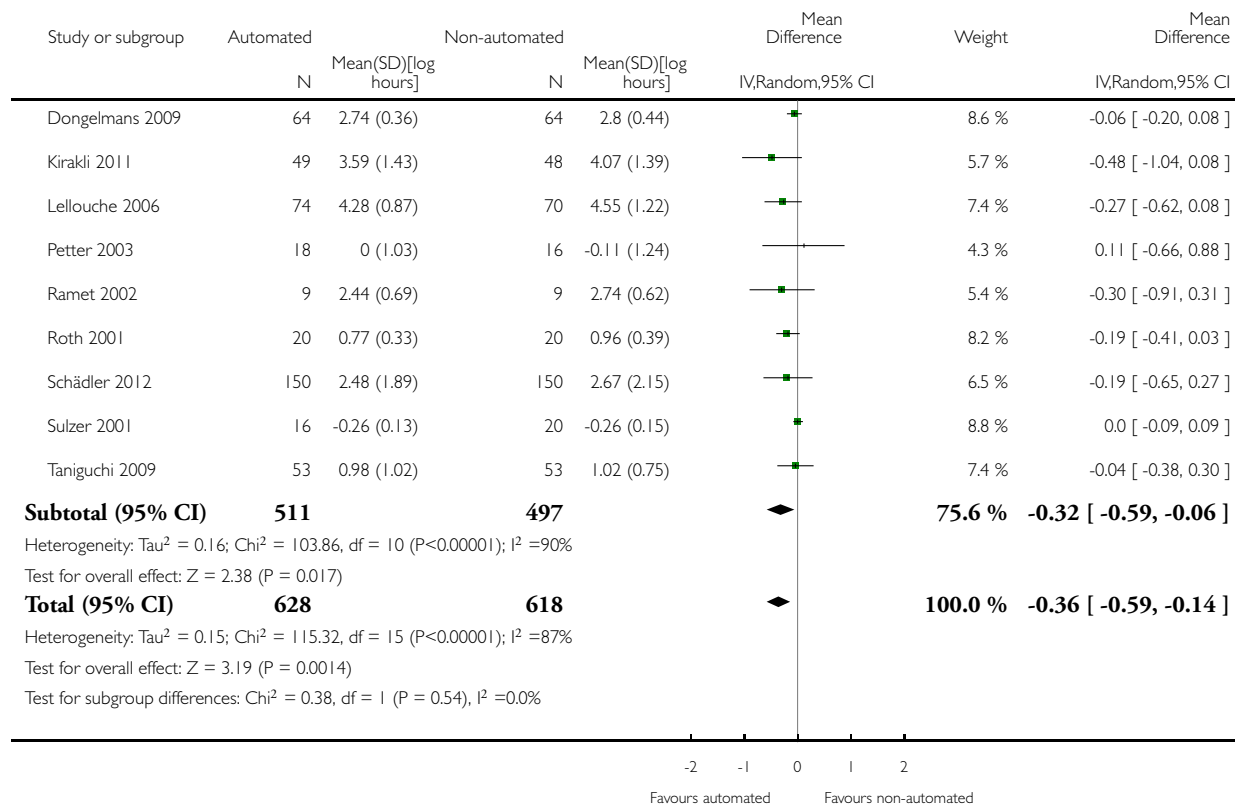
Comparison: 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system

Outcome: 3 Total weaning duration by non-automated strategy (control arm)



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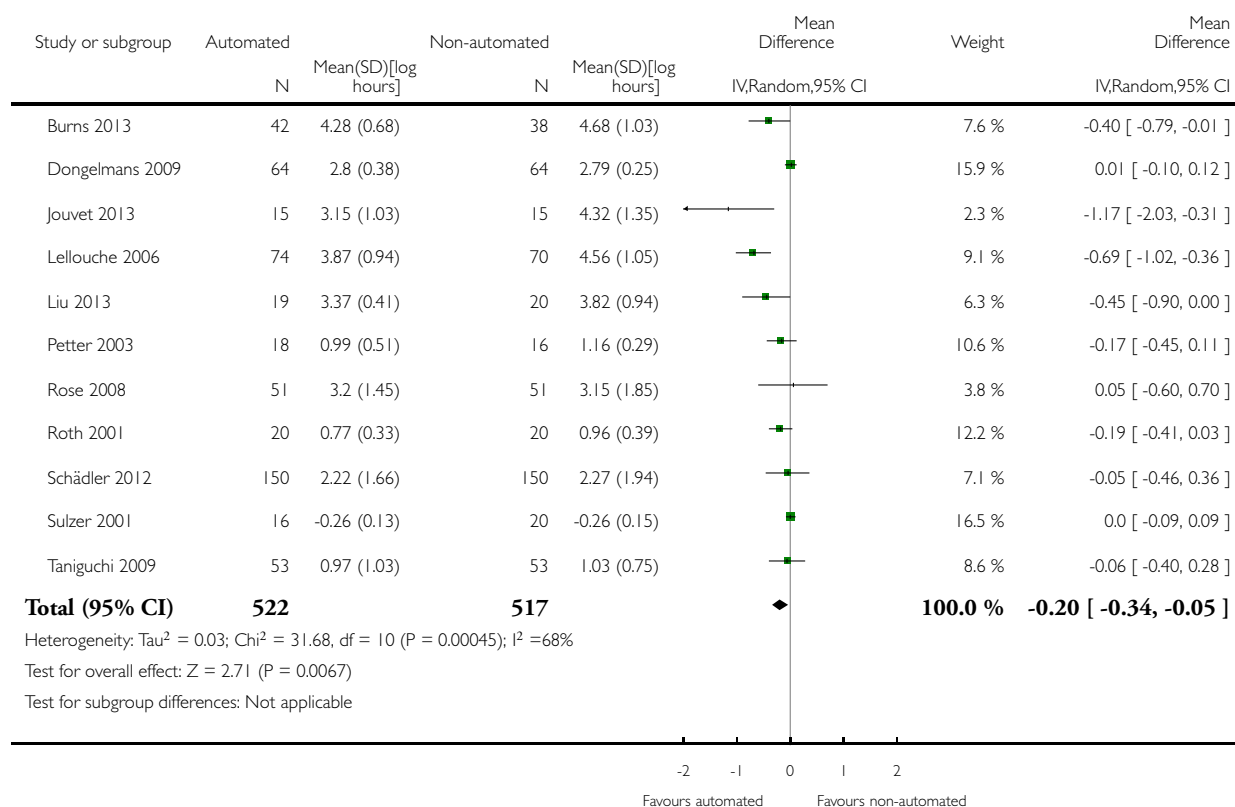


Analysis 1.4. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 4 Randomization to first extubation.

Review: Automated versus non-automated weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation for critically ill adults and children

Comparison: 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system

Outcome: 4 Randomization to first extubation

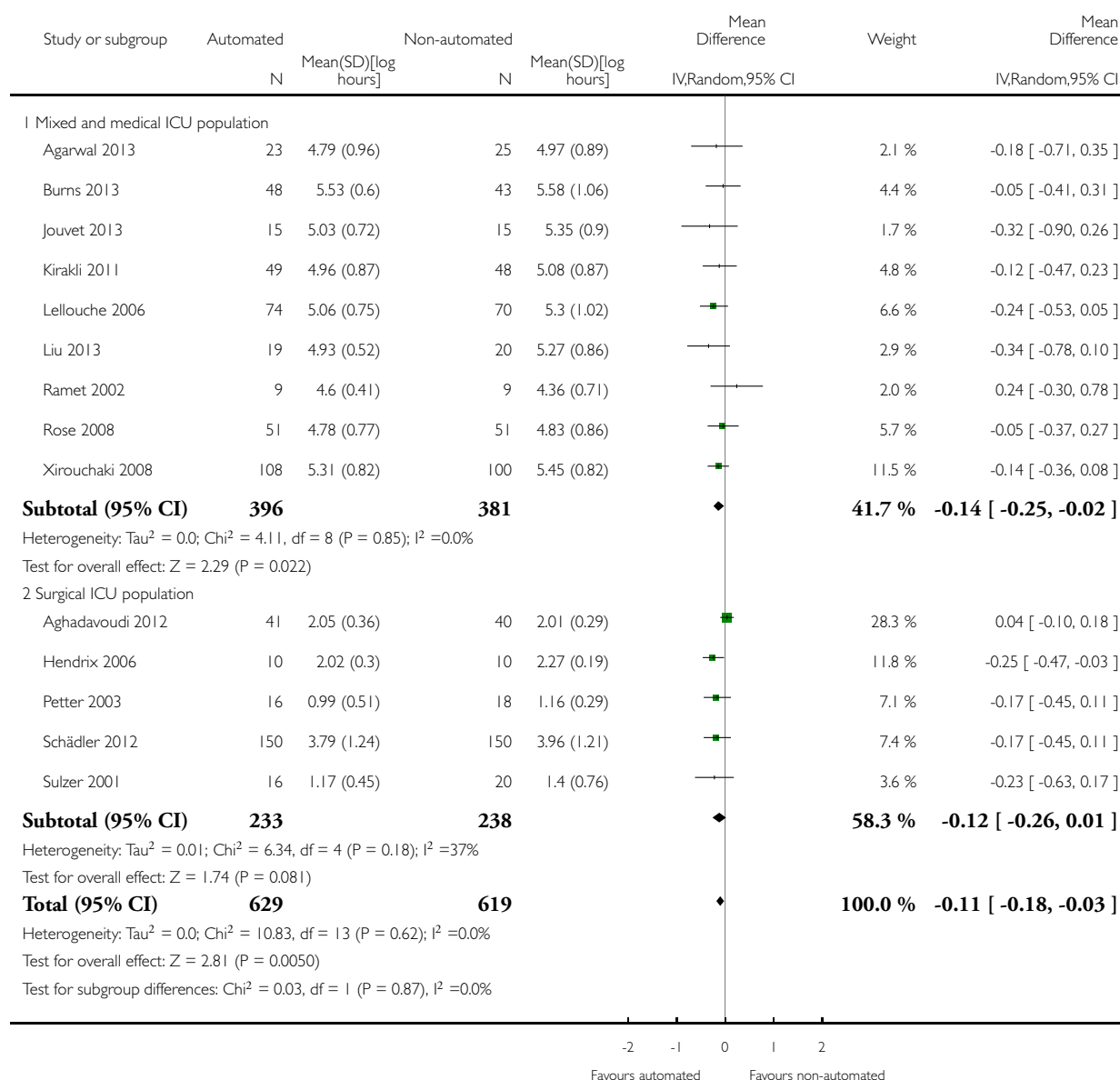


Analysis 1.5. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 5 Ventilation duration by study population.

Review: Automated versus non-automated weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation for critically ill adults and children

Comparison: 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system

Outcome: 5 Ventilation duration by study population

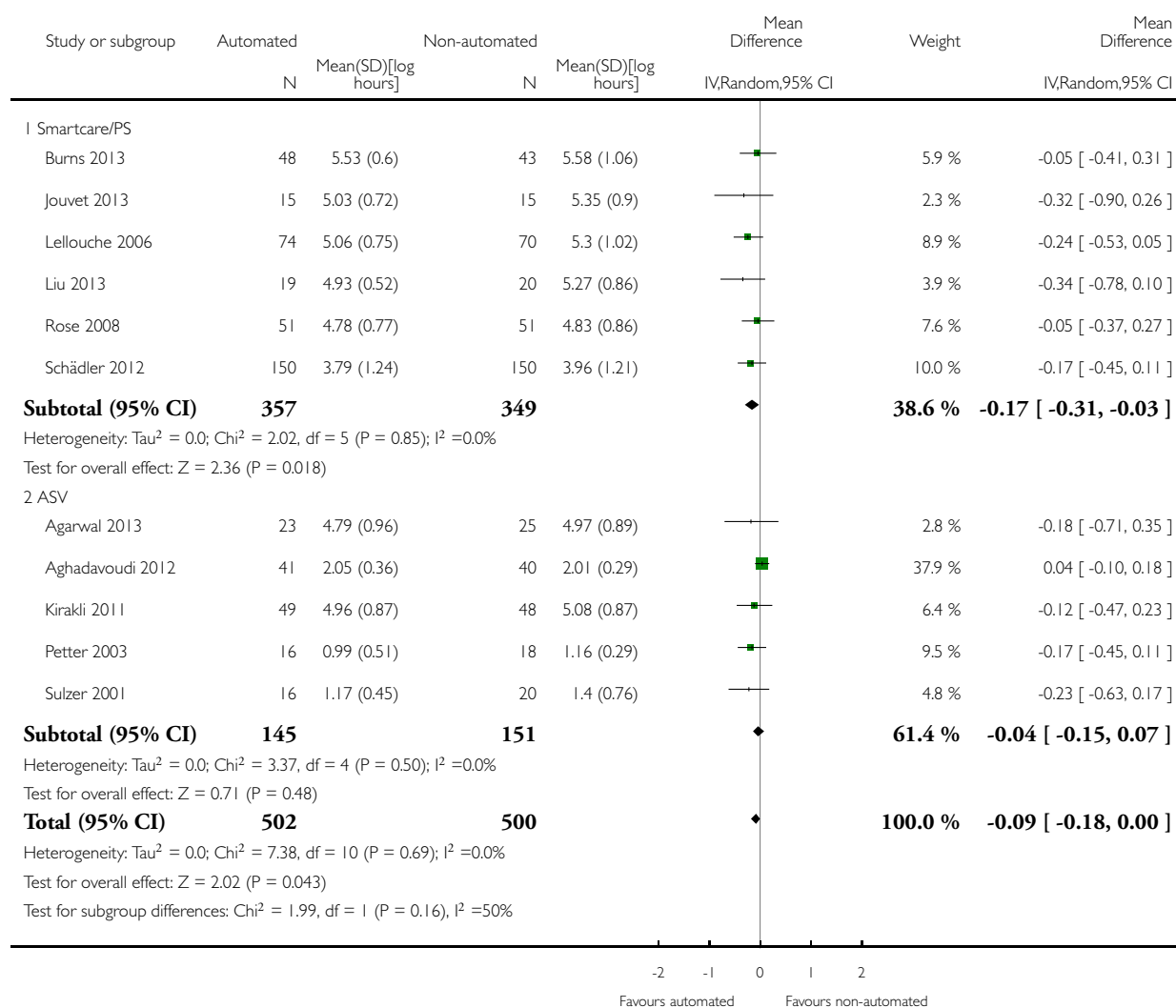


Analysis 1.6. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 6 Ventilation duration of by automated system.

Review: Automated versus non-automated weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation for critically ill adults and children

Comparison: 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system

Outcome: 6 Ventilation duration of by automated system

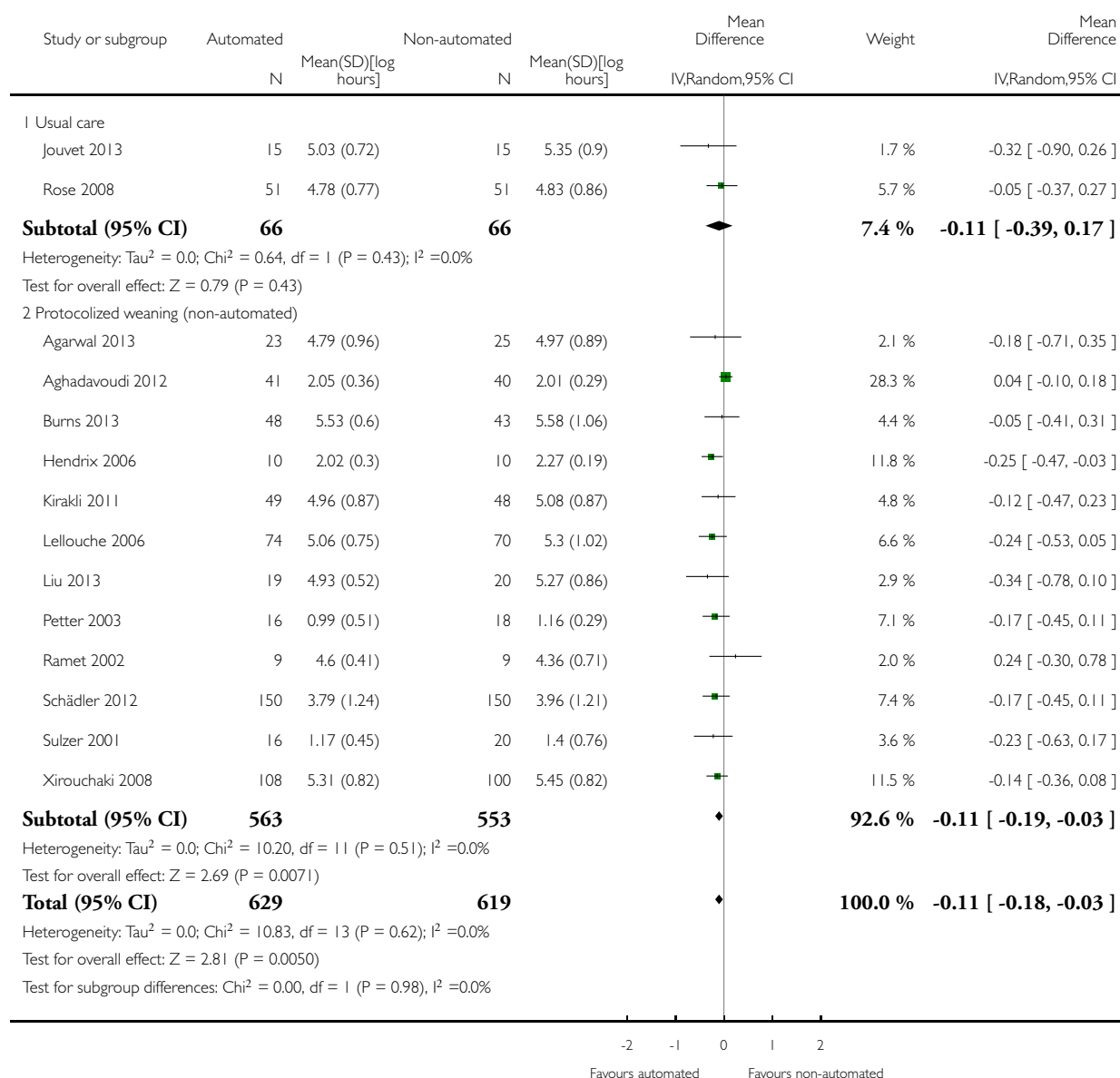


Analysis 1.7. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 7 Ventilation duration of by non-automated strategy (control arm).

Review: Automated versus non-automated weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation for critically ill adults and children

Comparison: 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system

Outcome: 7 Ventilation duration of by non-automated strategy (control arm)

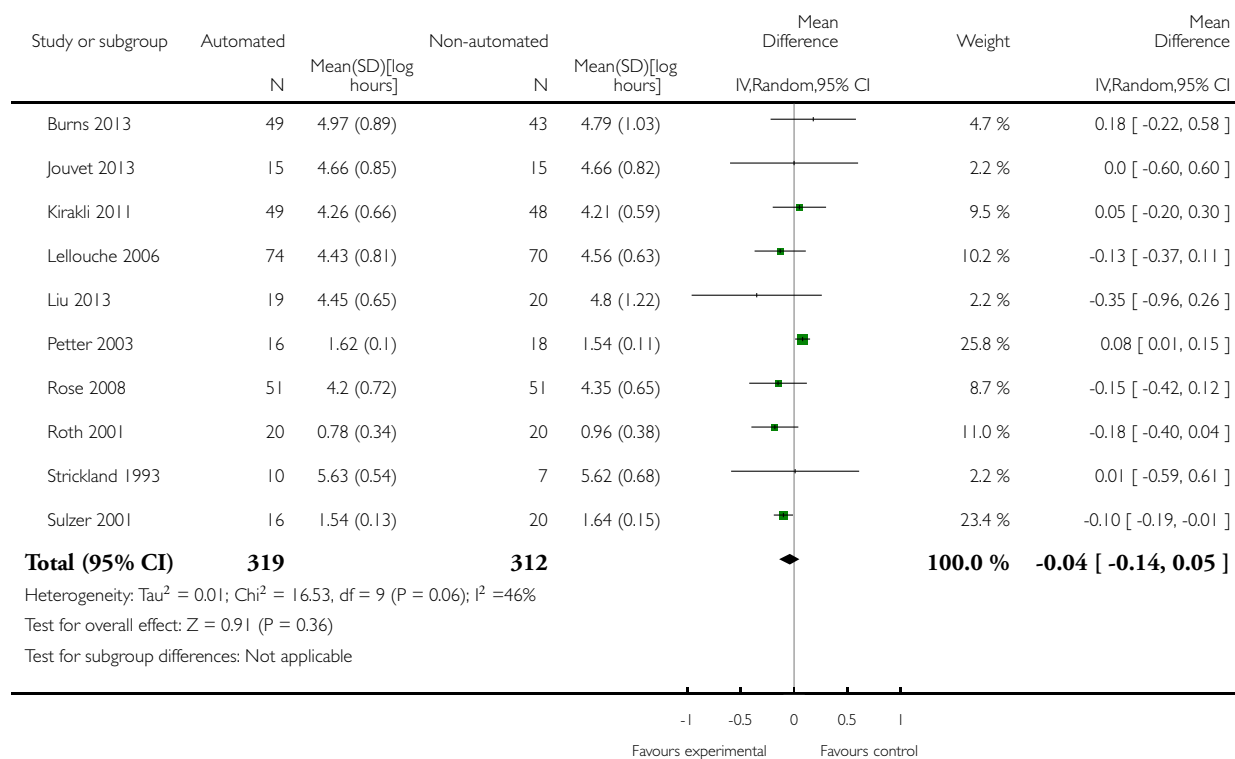


Analysis 1.8. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 8 Intubation to randomization.

Review: Automated versus non-automated weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation for critically ill adults and children

Comparison: 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system

Outcome: 8 Intubation to randomization

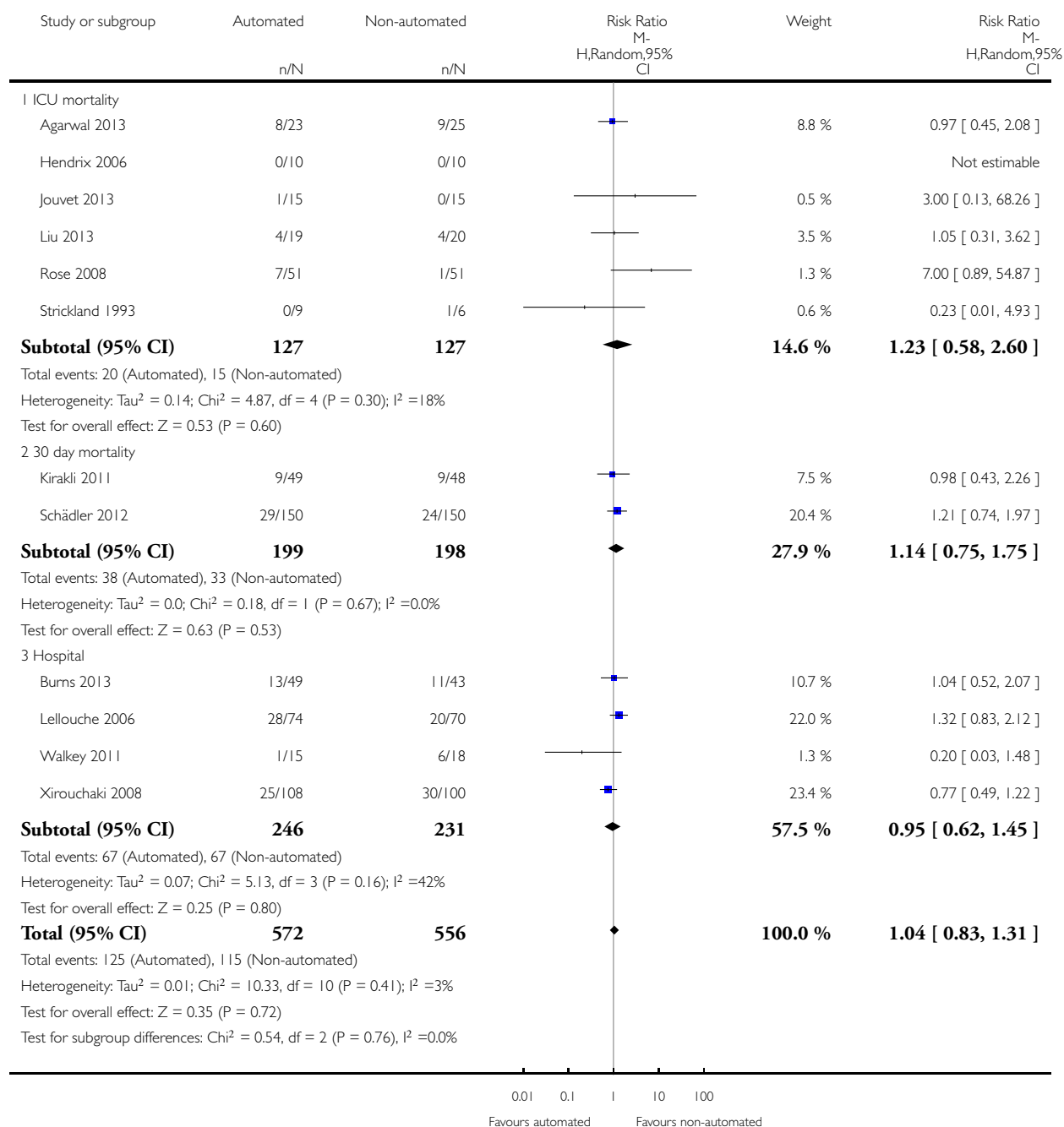


Analysis 1.9. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 9 Secondary outcome 5.1: mortality.

Review: Automated versus non-automated weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation for critically ill adults and children

Comparison: 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system

Outcome: 9 Secondary outcome 5.1: mortality

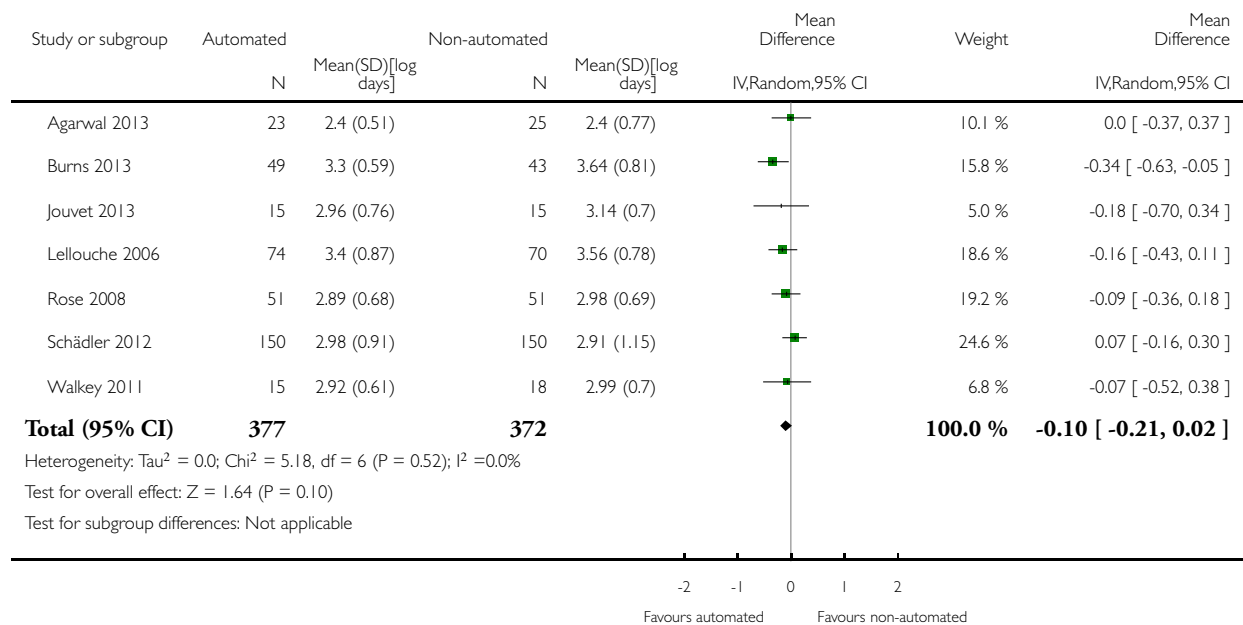


Analysis 1.10. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 10 Hospital length of stay.

Review: Automated versus non-automated weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation for critically ill adults and children

Comparison: 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system

Outcome: 10 Hospital length of stay

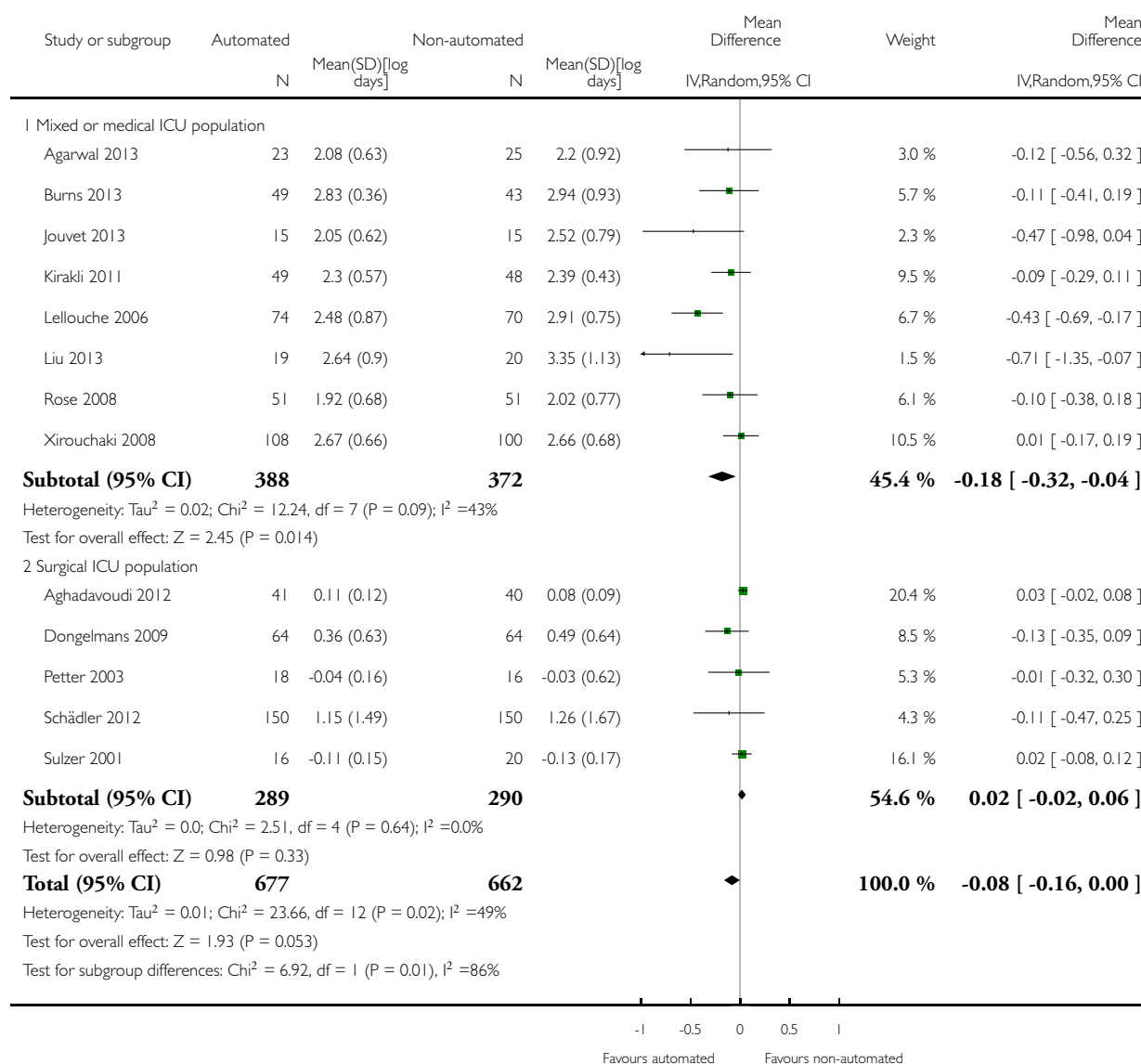


Analysis 1.11. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 11 ICU length of stay by ICU population.

Review: Automated versus non-automated weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation for critically ill adults and children

Comparison: 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system

Outcome: 11 ICU length of stay by ICU population

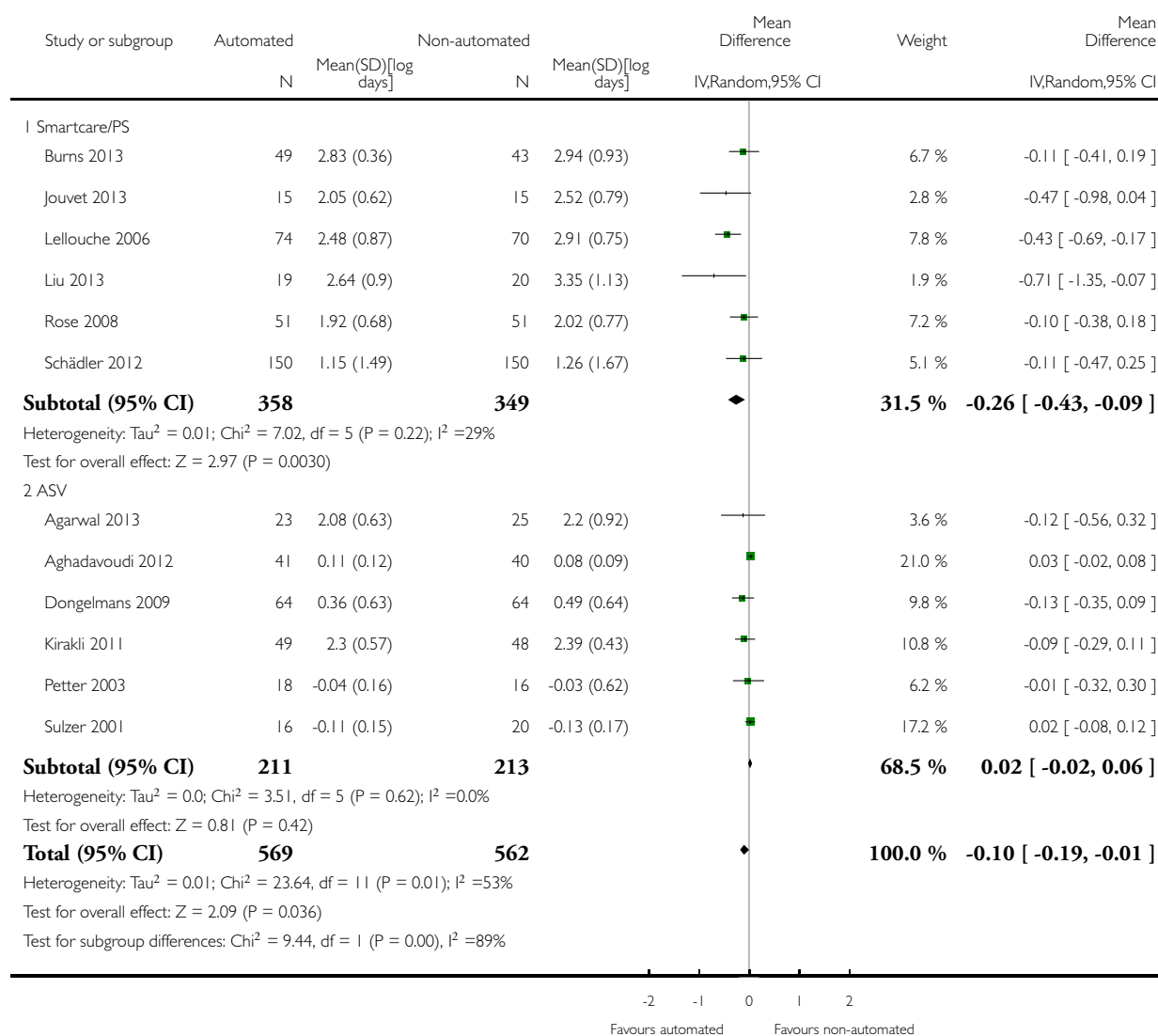


Analysis 1.12. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 12 ICU length of stay by automated system.

Review: Automated versus non-automated weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation for critically ill adults and children

Comparison: 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system

Outcome: 12 ICU length of stay by automated system

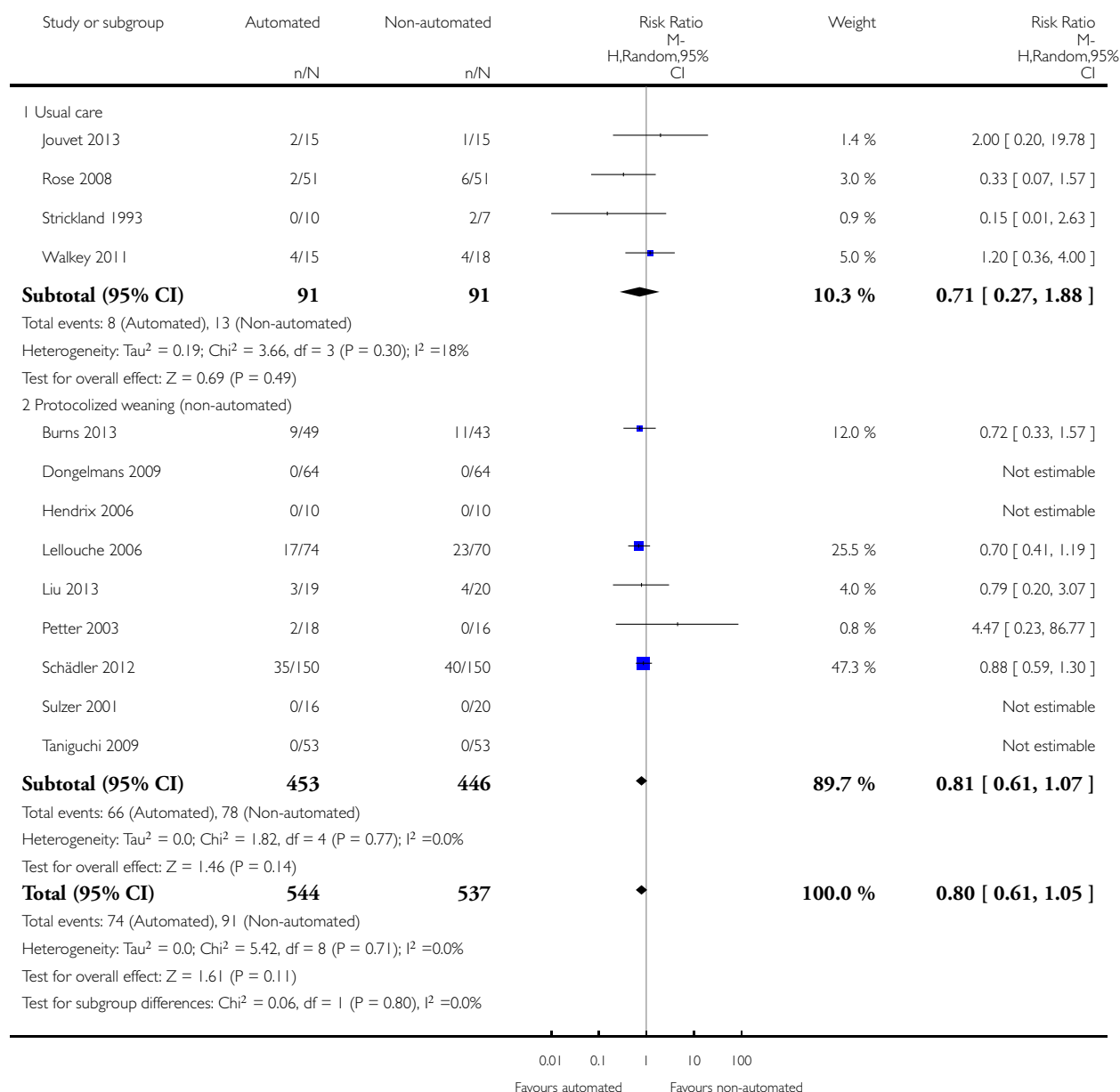


Analysis 1.13. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 13 Reintubation.

Review: Automated versus non-automated weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation for critically ill adults and children

Comparison: 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system

Outcome: 13 Reintubation

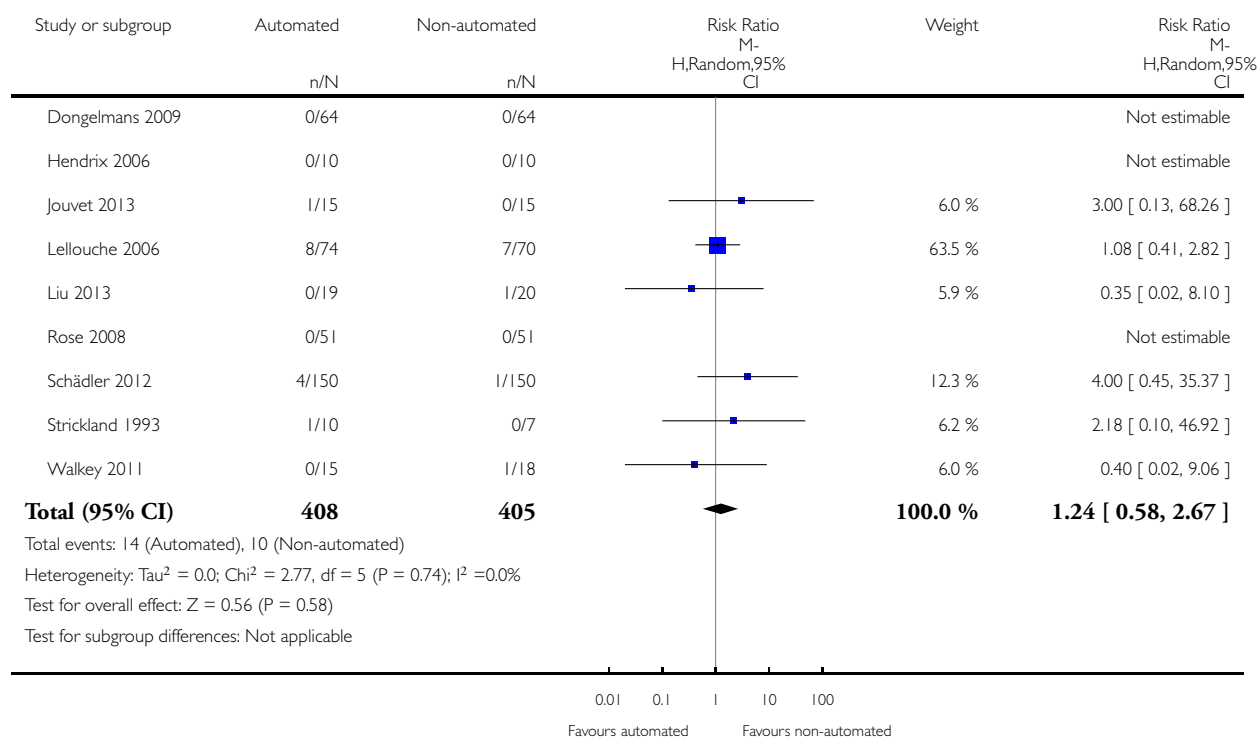


Analysis 1.14. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 14 Self-extubation.

Review: Automated versus non-automated weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation for critically ill adults and children

Comparison: 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system

Outcome: 14 Self-extubation

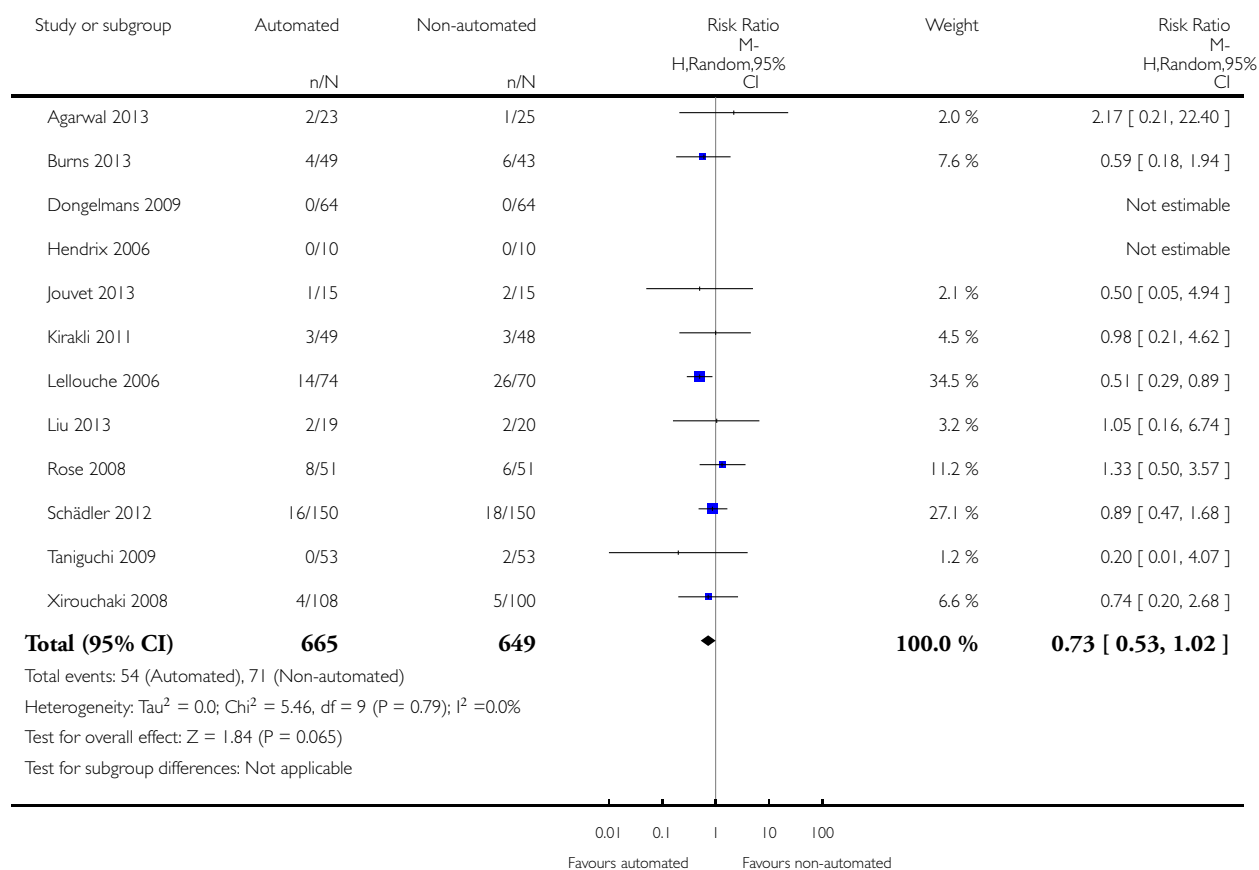


Analysis 1.15. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 15 Non invasive ventilation.

Review: Automated versus non-automated weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation for critically ill adults and children

Comparison: 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system

Outcome: 15 Non invasive ventilation

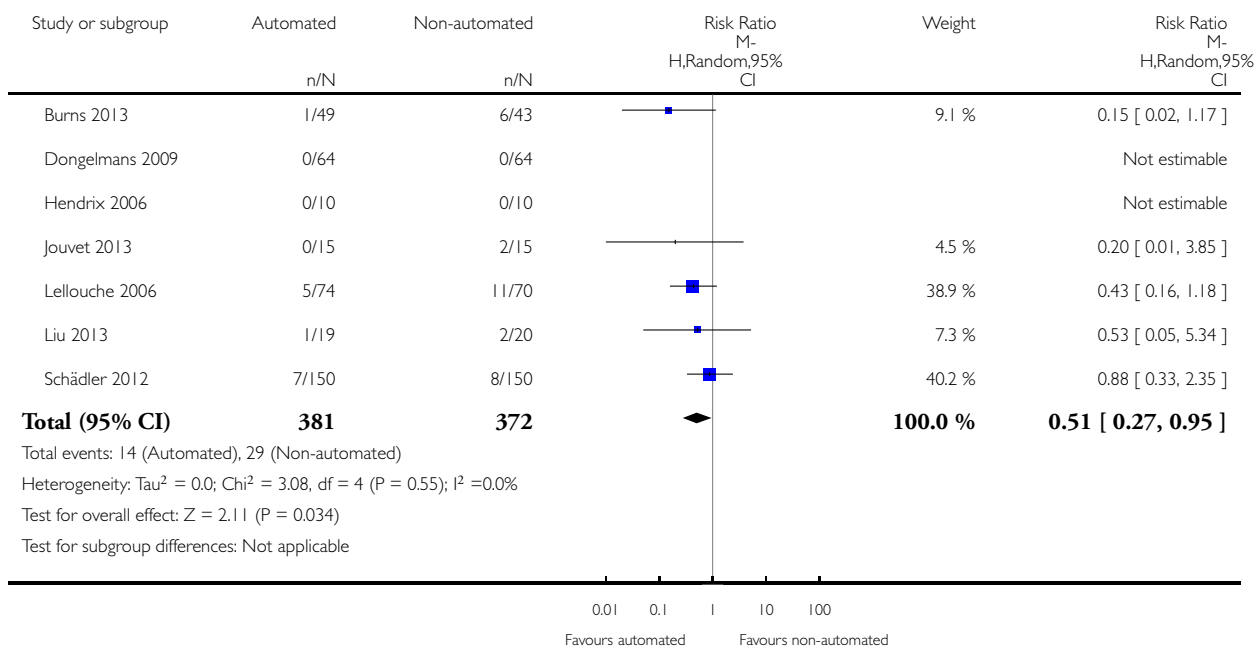


Analysis 1.16. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 16 Prolonged mechanical ventilation.

Review: Automated versus non-automated weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation for critically ill adults and children

Comparison: 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system

Outcome: 16 Prolonged mechanical ventilation

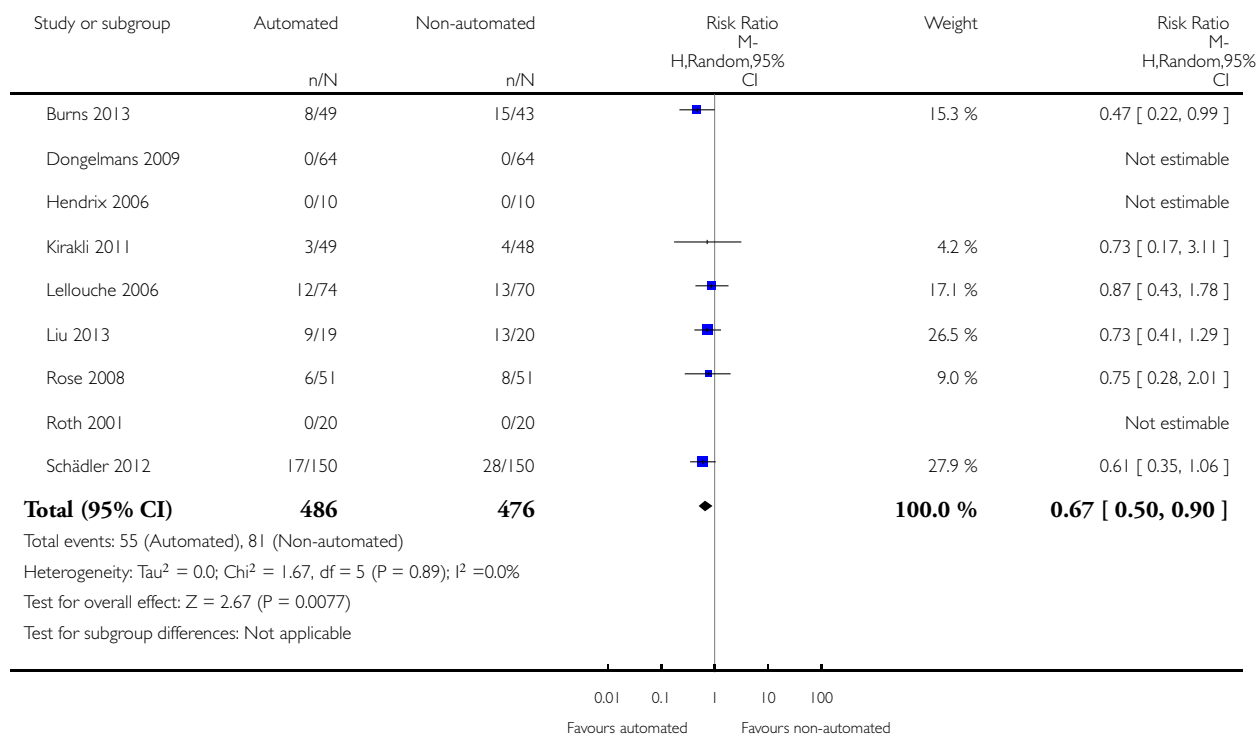


Analysis 1.17. Comparison 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, Outcome 17 Tracheostomy.

Review: Automated versus non-automated weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation for critically ill adults and children

Comparison: 1 Primary analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system

Outcome: 17 Tracheostomy

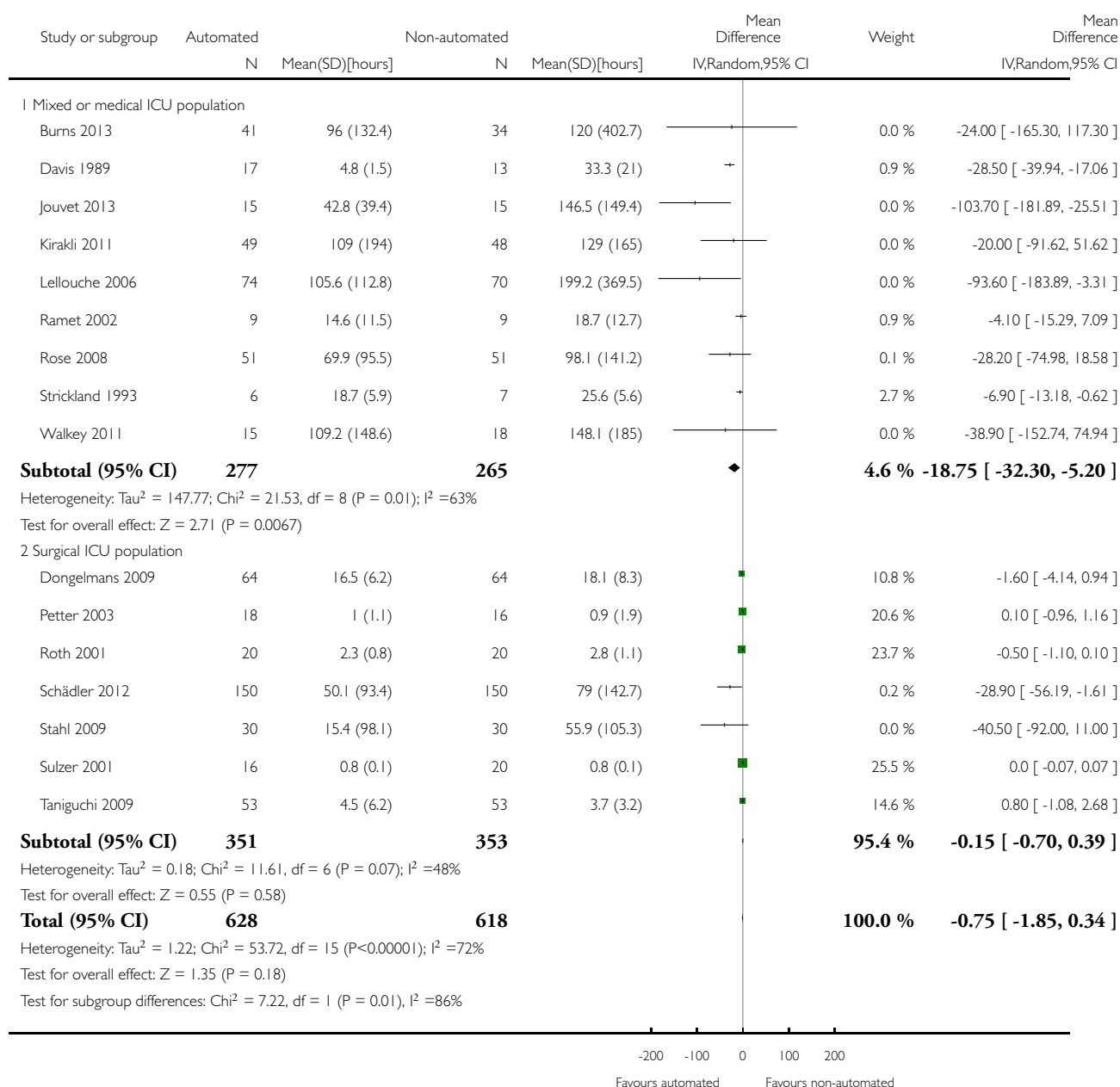


Analysis 2.1. Comparison 2 Sensitivity analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, un-logged data duration of weaning, Outcome 1 Weaning duration by ICU population.

Review: Automated versus non-automated weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation for critically ill adults and children

Comparison: 2 Sensitivity analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, un-logged data duration of weaning

Outcome: 1 Weaning duration by ICU population

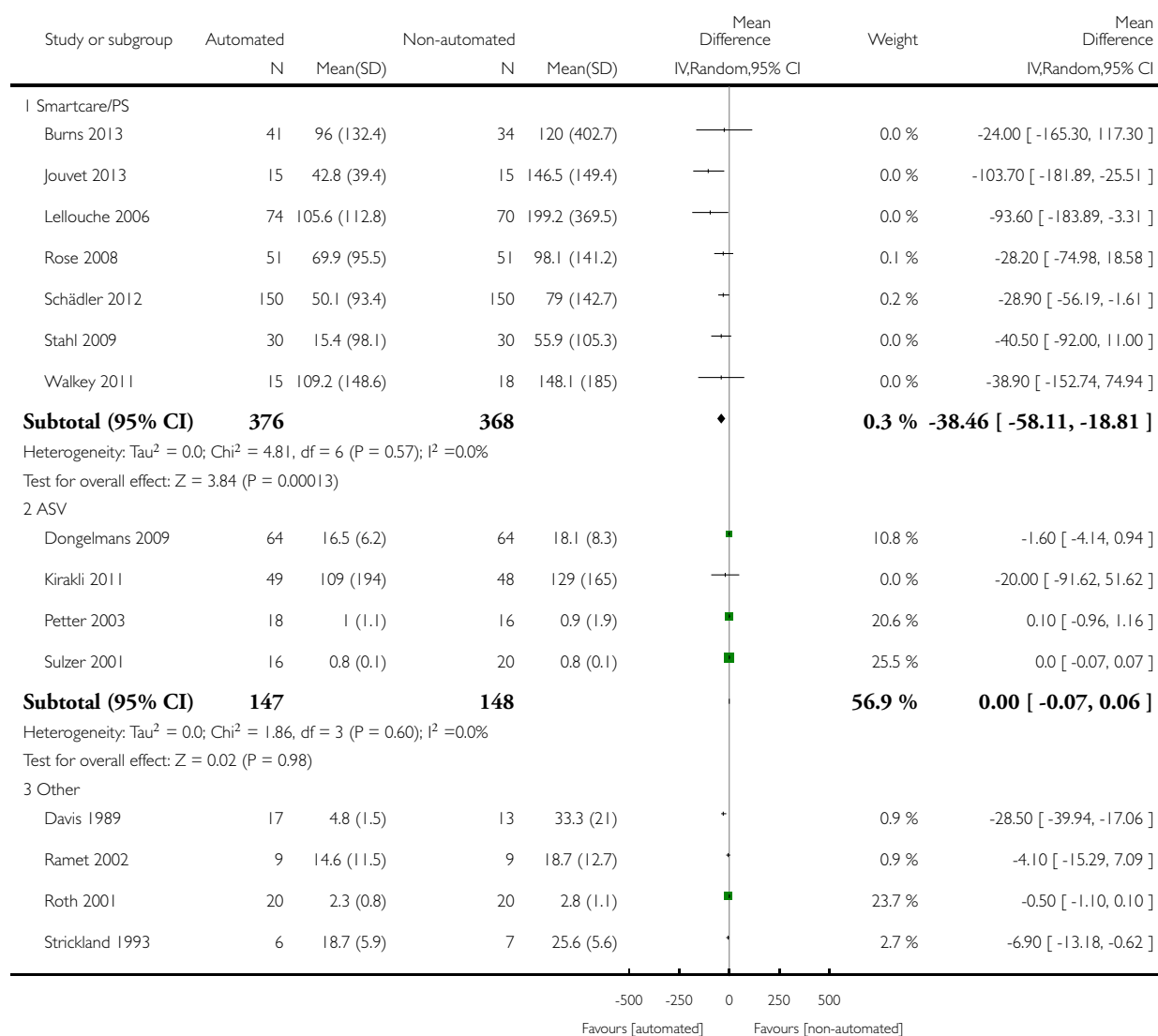


Analysis 2.2. Comparison 2 Sensitivity analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, un-logged data duration of weaning, Outcome 2 Weaning duration by automated system [hours].

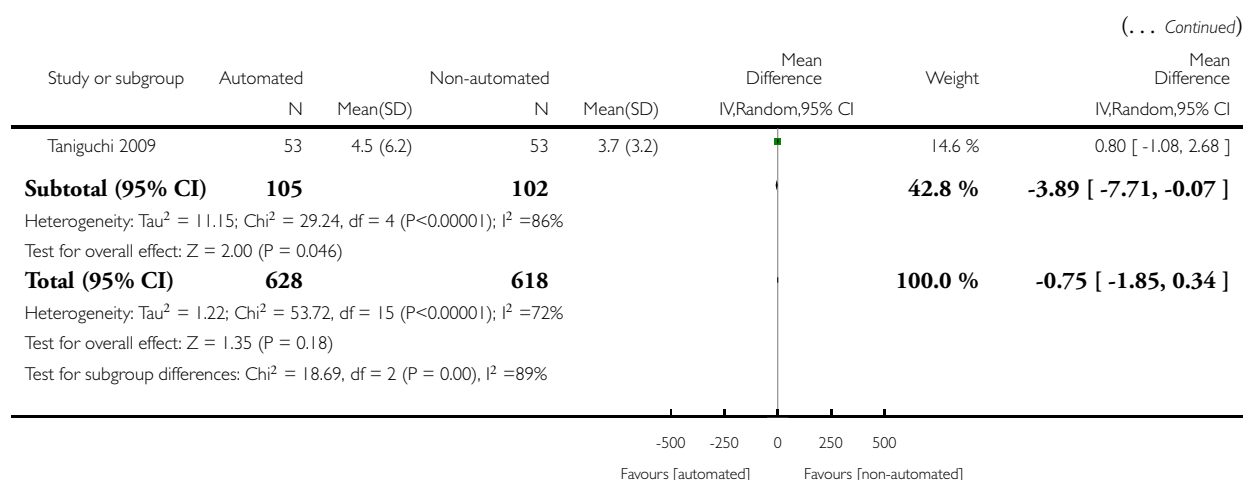
Review: Automated versus non-automated weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation for critically ill adults and children

Comparison: 2 Sensitivity analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, un-logged data duration of weaning

Outcome: 2 Weaning duration by automated system [hours]



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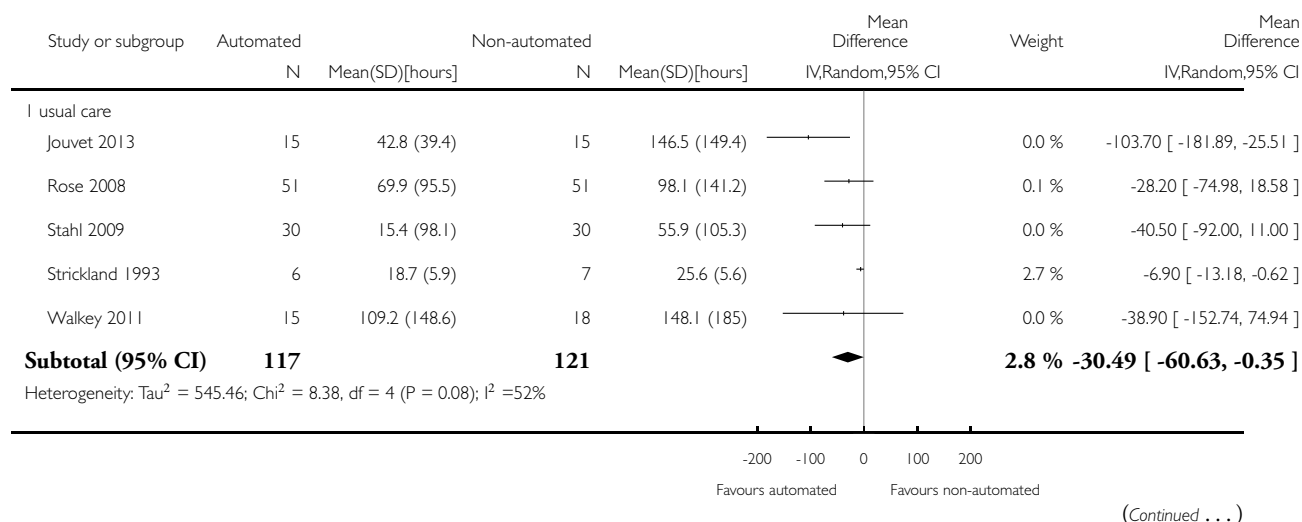


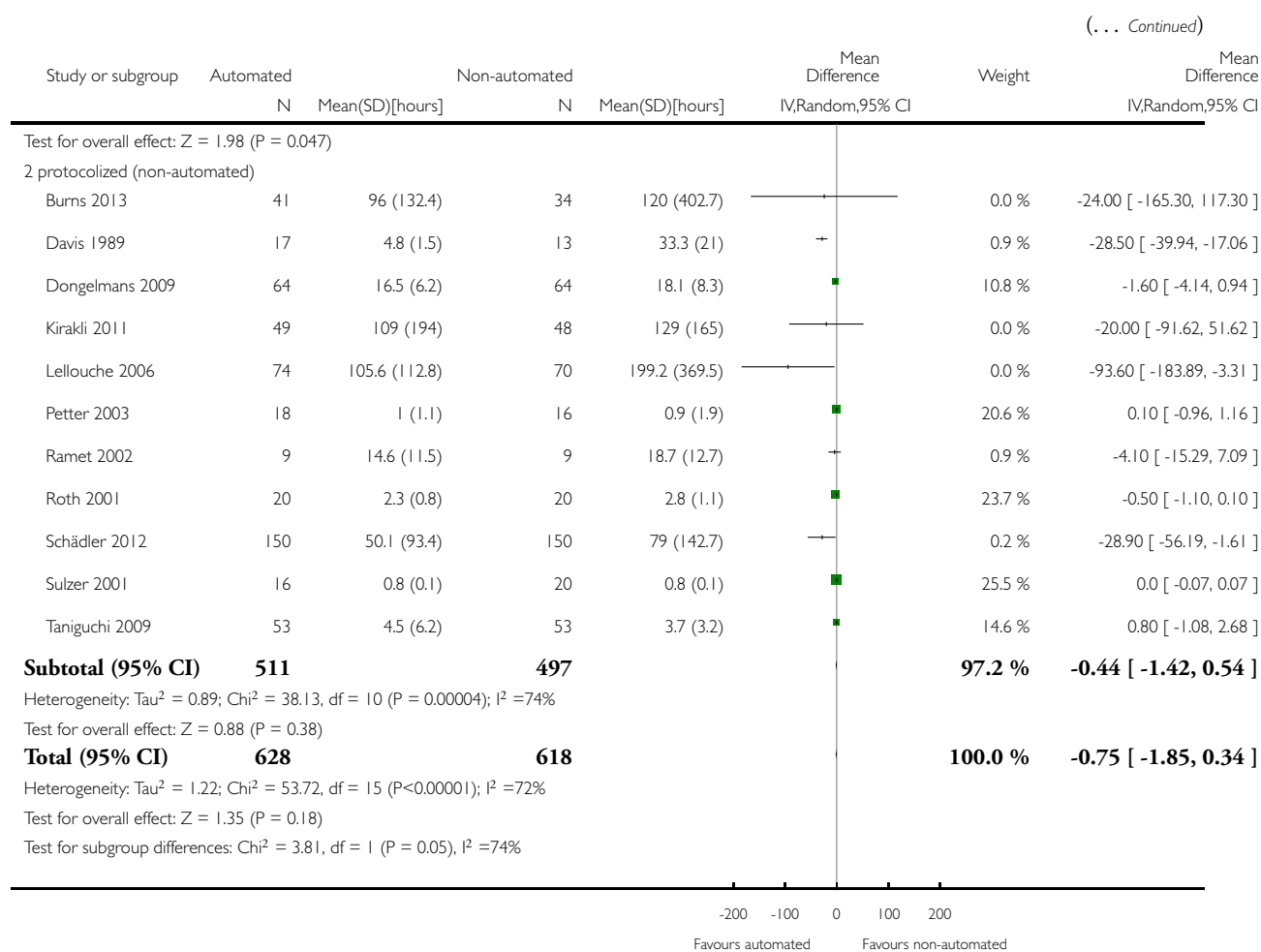
Analysis 2.3. Comparison 2 Sensitivity analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, un-logged data duration of weaning, Outcome 3 Weaning duration by non-automated strategy (control arm).

Review: Automated versus non-automated weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation for critically ill adults and children

Comparison: 2 Sensitivity analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, un-logged data duration of weaning

Outcome: 3 Weaning duration by non-automated strategy (control arm)



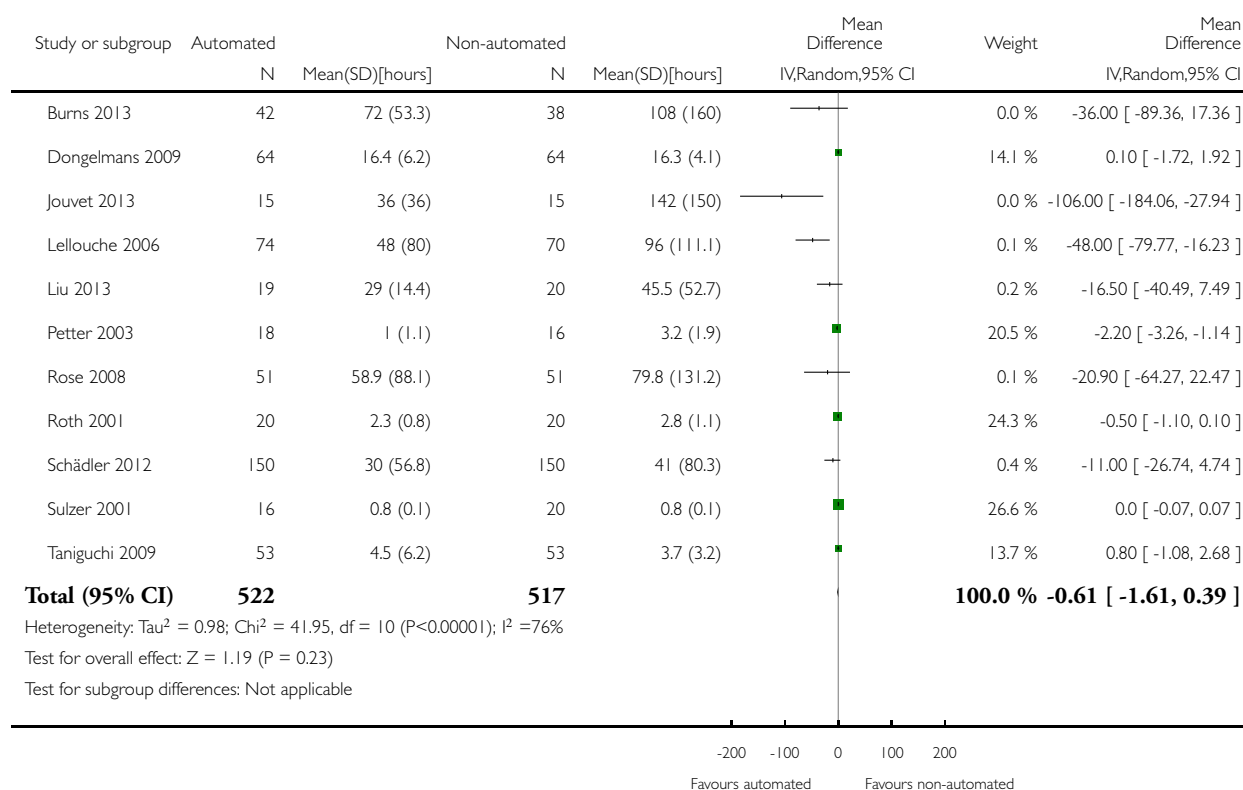


Analysis 2.4. Comparison 2 Sensitivity analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, un-logged data duration of weaning, Outcome 4 Randomization to first extubation.

Review: Automated versus non-automated weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation for critically ill adults and children

Comparison: 2 Sensitivity analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, un-logged data duration of weaning

Outcome: 4 Randomization to first extubation

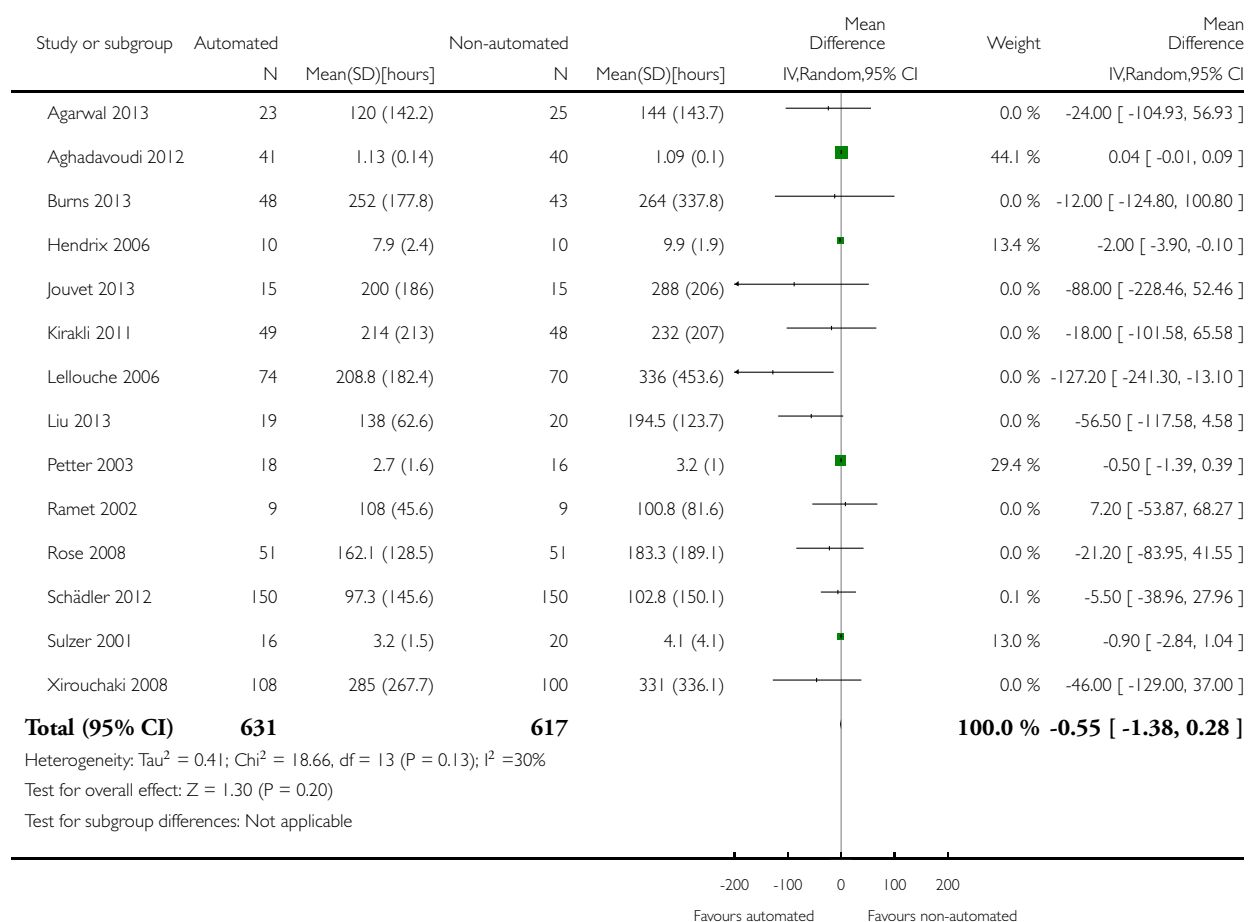


Analysis 2.5. Comparison 2 Sensitivity analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, un-logged data duration of weaning, Outcome 5 Ventilation duration.

Review: Automated versus non-automated weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation for critically ill adults and children

Comparison: 2 Sensitivity analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, un-logged data duration of weaning

Outcome: 5 Ventilation duration

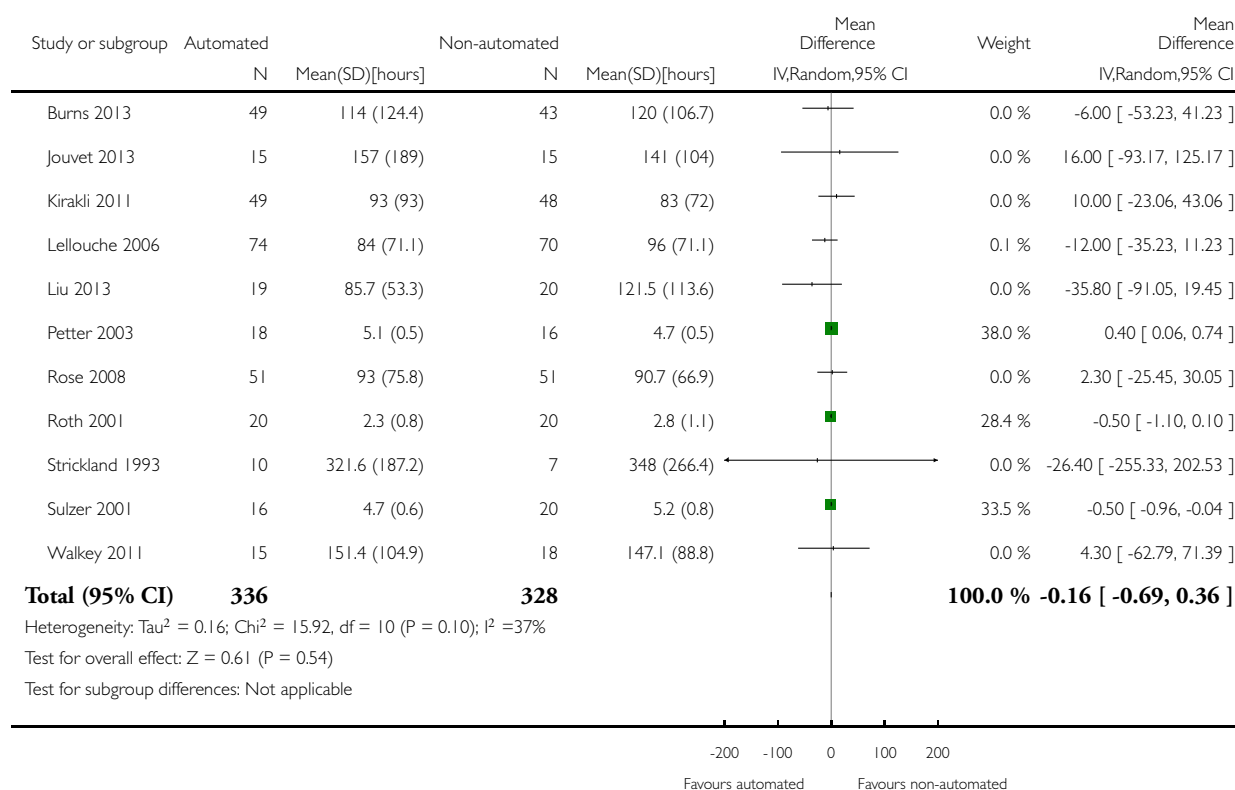


Analysis 2.6. Comparison 2 Sensitivity analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, un-logged data duration of weaning, Outcome 6 Intubation to randomization.

Review: Automated versus non-automated weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation for critically ill adults and children

Comparison: 2 Sensitivity analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, un-logged data duration of weaning

Outcome: 6 Intubation to randomization

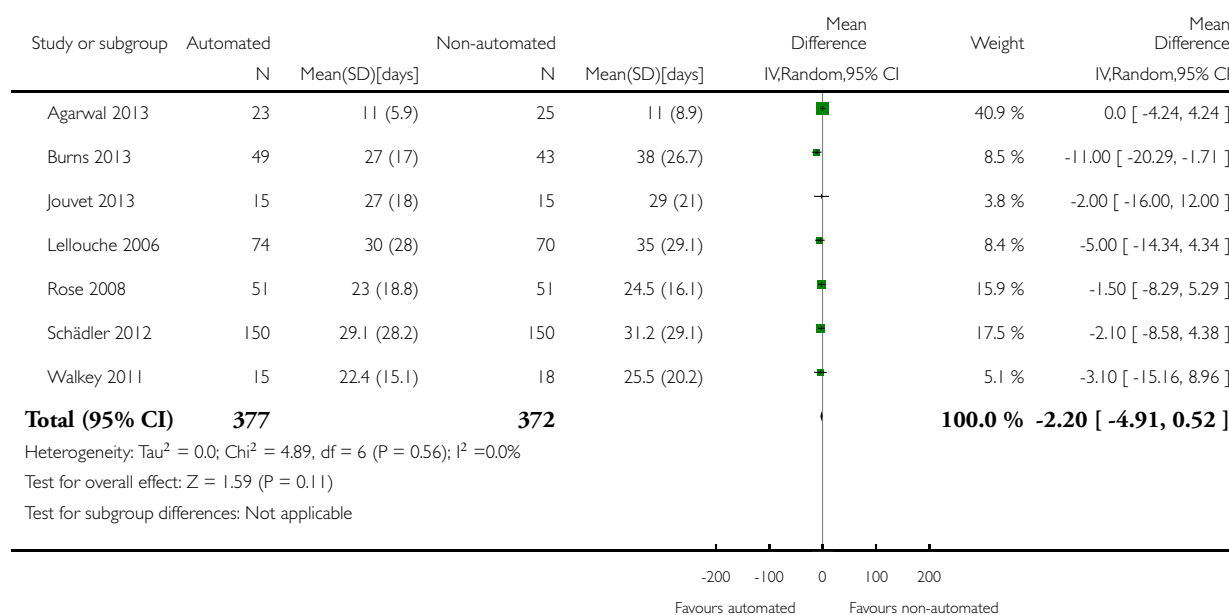


Analysis 2.7. Comparison 2 Sensitivity analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, un-logged data duration of weaning, Outcome 7 Hospital length of stay.

Review: Automated versus non-automated weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation for critically ill adults and children

Comparison: 2 Sensitivity analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, un-logged data duration of weaning

Outcome: 7 Hospital length of stay

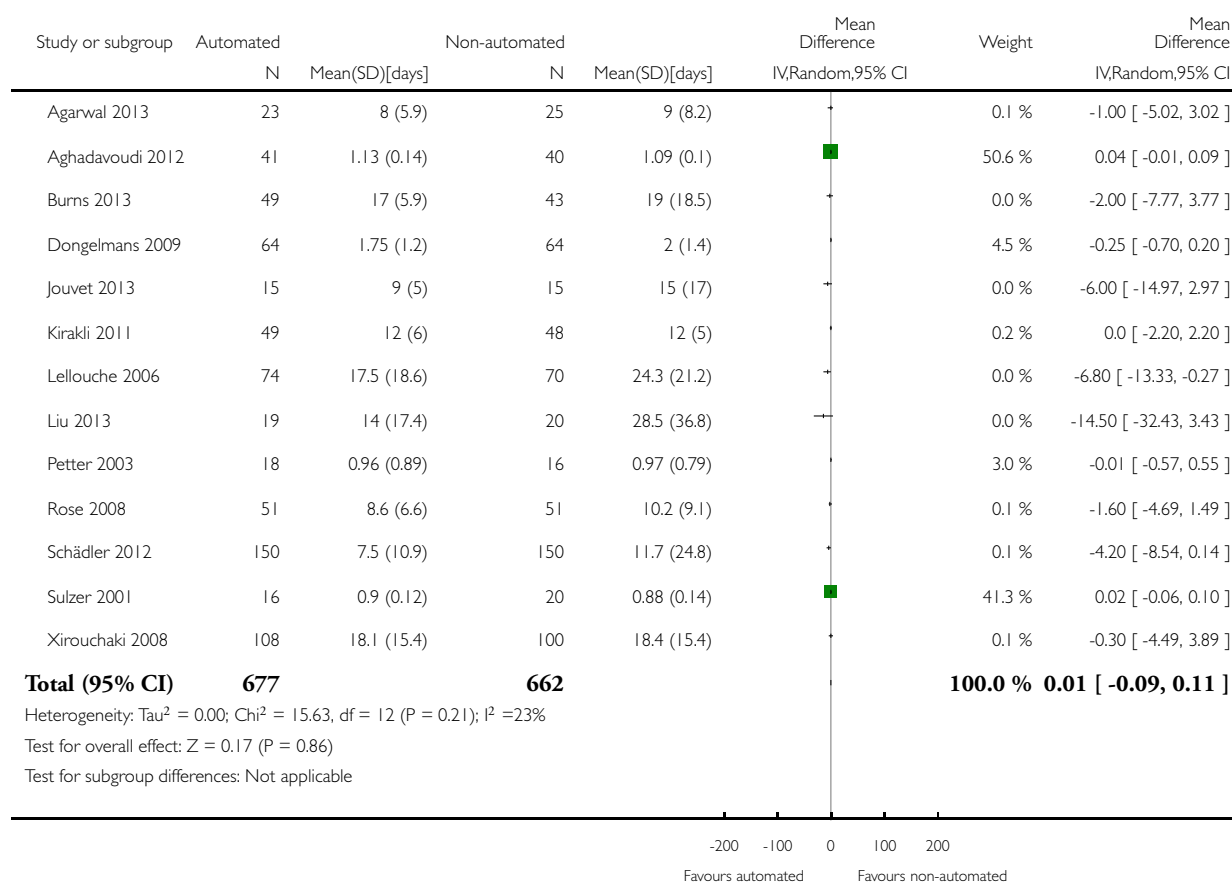


Analysis 2.8. Comparison 2 Sensitivity analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, un-logged data duration of weaning, Outcome 8 ICU length of stay.

Review: Automated versus non-automated weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation for critically ill adults and children

Comparison: 2 Sensitivity analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system, un-logged data duration of weaning

Outcome: 8 ICU length of stay

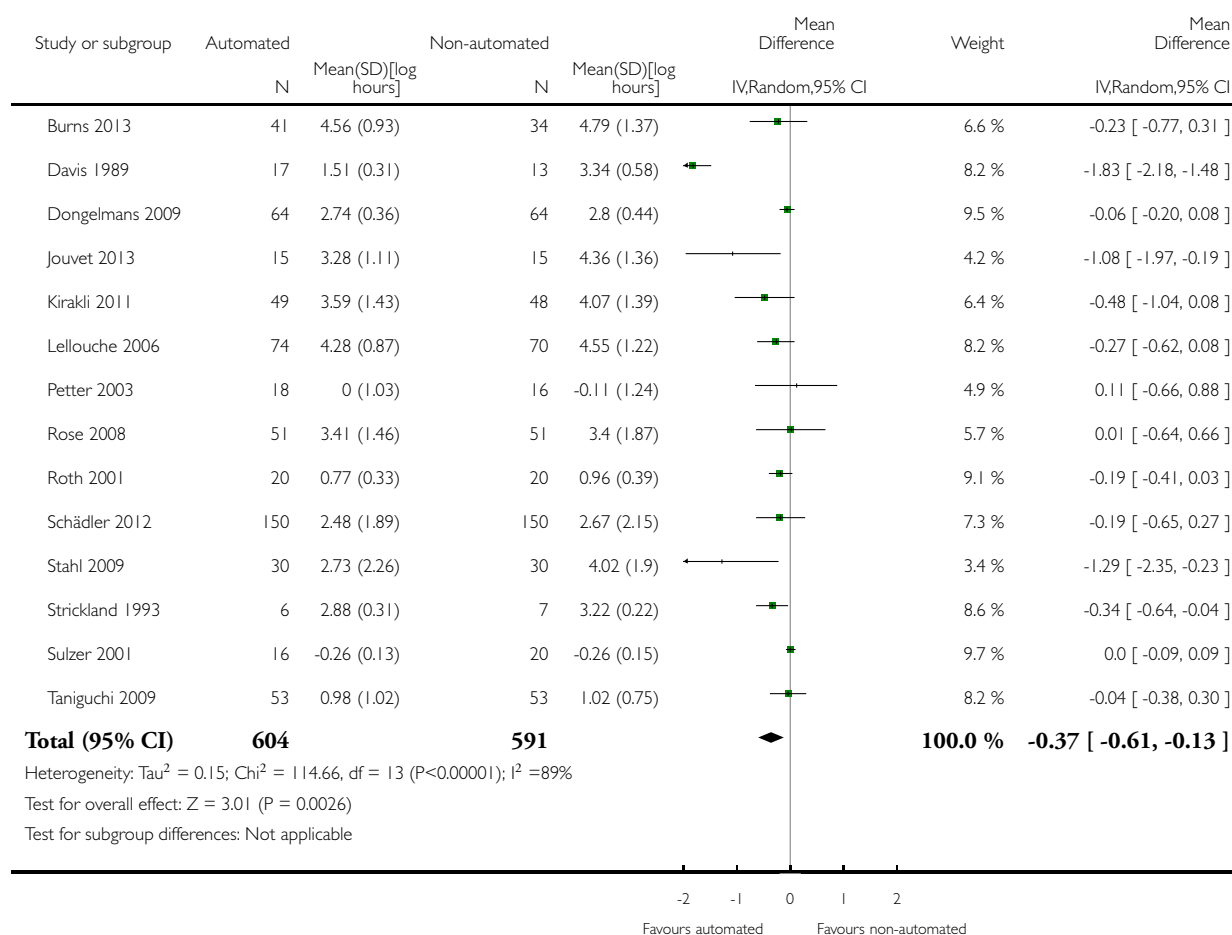


Analysis 3.1. Comparison 3 Sensitivity analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system excluding high risk of bias studies, Outcome 1 Weaning duration.

Review: Automated versus non-automated weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation for critically ill adults and children

Comparison: 3 Sensitivity analysis: automated closed loop system versus non-automated system excluding high risk of bias studies

Outcome: 1 Weaning duration



APPENDICES

Appendix 1. MEDLINE (OvidSP) search strategy

1 ventilator weaning/
2 (exp positive-pressure respiration/ or Ventilators, Mechanical/ or respiration, artificial/ or exp Respiratory Mechanics/ or ventilat*.ti,ab.) and (wean* or liberat* or extubat*).mp.
3 1 or 2 (6423)
4 exp Therapy, Computer-Assisted/ or (((computer or proportion*) adj3 assist*) or (automat* adj3 system*) or (smart adj3 care) or automat* or closed-loop or (closed adj3 loop) or smartcare or automode or adaptive support ventilation or (adaptive adj3 (support* or assist*)) or mandatory minute ventilation or (mandatory adj3 minute*) or neurally adjusted ventilat* assist or (neurally adj3 adjust*) or nava or volume support ventilation or intellivent or (volume adj3 support adj3 ventilation) or proportional pressure support or (proportional adj3 pressure adj3 support)).mp.
5 3 and 4
6 (controlled clinical trial or meta analysis or multicenter study or randomized controlled trial).pt. or randomized control trials as topic/ or controlled clinical trials as topic/ or multicenter studies as topic/ or metaanalysis as topic/ or double-blind method/ or single-blind method/ or (rct or rcts or random* or multicent* or placebo* or metanalys* or sham or effectiveness or efficacy or compar*).mp. or (meta adj5 analys?s).mp. or ((singl* or doubl* or tripl* or trebl*) adj5 (mask* or blind*)).mp. (4119912)
7 5 and 6

Appendix 2. EMBASE (OvidSP) search strategy

1 (exp artificial ventilation/ or artificial ventilation/ or positive end expiratory pressure/ or ventilator/ or breathing mechanics/ or ((respirat* or breathing) adj2 (ventilat* or movement*)):ti,ab. or ventilat*.mp.) and (wean* or liberat* or extubat*).mp.
2 exp computer assisted therapy/ or (((computer or proportion*) adj3 assist*) or (automat* adj3 system*) or automat* or closed-loop or (closed adj3 loop) or (smart adj3 care) or smartcare or automode or “adaptive support ventilation” or (adaptive adj3 (support* or assist*)) or “mandatory minute ventilation” or (mandatory adj3 minute*) or “neurally adjusted ventilat* assist*” or (neurally adj3 adjust*) or nava or “volume support ventilation” or intellivent or (volume adj3 support adj3 ventilation) or “proportional pressure support” or (proportional adj3 pressure adj3 support)).mp.
3 1 and 2
4 ct.fs. or controlled clinical trial/ or randomized controlled trial/ or multicenter study/ or meta analysis/ or (random* or (doubl* adj2 dummy) or ((Singl* or doubl* or trebl* or tripl*) adj5 (blind* or mask*)) or RCT or RCTs or (control* adj5 trial*) or multicent* or placebo* or metaanalys* or (meta adj5 analys*) or sham or effectiveness or efficacy or compar*).ti,ab.
5 3 and 4

Appendix 3. Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials search strategy

#1 MeSH descriptor Ventilator Weaning explode all trees
#2 MeSH descriptor Positive-Pressure Respiration explode all trees
#3 MeSH descriptor Ventilators, Mechanical explode all trees
#4 MeSH descriptor Respiration, Artificial explode all trees
#5 MeSH descriptor Respiratory Mechanics explode all trees
#6 ((respirat* or breathing) near (ventilat* or movement*)):ti,ab or ventilat*:ti,ab
#7 (positive?end expirat* pressure) or (breathing mechanic*)
#8 wean* or liberat* or extubat*
#9 (#8 AND (#1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4 OR #5 OR #6 OR #7))
#10 (#1 OR #9)
#11 MeSH descriptor Therapy, Computer-Assisted explode all trees
#12 ((computer or proportion*) near assist*) or (automat* near system*) or (smart near care) or smartcare or automode or (adaptive near (support* or assist*)) or (mandatory near minute*) or (neurally adjusted ventilat* assist*) or (neurally near adjust*) or nava or (volume near support near ventilation) or (proportional near pressure near support) or intellivent
#13 (#11 OR #12)
#14 (#10 AND #13)

Appendix 4. Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE) search strategy

- 1 ((ventilat* and (wean* or liberat* or extubat*)) or "ventilator weaning").mp.
- 2 (("positive pressure respiration" or "artificial ventilation" or "Respiratory Mechanics") and (wean* or liberat* or extubat*)).mp.
- 3 1 or 2
- 4 (((computer or proportion*) adj3 assist*) or (automat* adj3 system*) or (smart adj3 care) or smartcare or automode or "adaptive support ventilation" or (adaptive adj3 (support* or assist*)) or "mandatory minute ventilation" or (mandatory adj3 minute*) or "neurally adjusted ventilat* assist*" or (neurally adj3 adjust*) or nava or "volume support ventilation" or (volume adj3 support adj3 ventilation) or "proportional pressure support" or (proportional adj3 pressure adj3 support)).mp.
- 5 3 and 4

Appendix 5. Health Technology Assessment search strategy

- 1 ventilator weaning/
- 2 (exp positive-pressure respiration/ or Ventilators, Mechanical/ or respiration, artificial/ or exp Respiratory Mechanics/ or artificial ventilation/ or positive end expiratory pressure/ or ventilator/ or breathing mechanics/ or ((respirat* or breathing) adj2 (ventilat* or movement*)).mp. or ventilat*.mp.) and (wean* or liberat* or extubat*).mp.
- 3 1 or 2
- 4 exp Therapy, Computer-Assisted/ or exp Therapy, Computer-Assisted/ or (((computer or proportion*) adj3 assist*) or (automat* adj3 system*) or (smart adj3 care) or smartcare or automode or "adaptive support ventilation" or (adaptive adj3 (support* or assist*)) or "mandatory minute ventilation" or (mandatory adj3 minute*) or "neurally adjusted ventilat* assist*" or (neurally adj3 adjust*) or nava or "volume support ventilation" or (volume adj3 support adj3 ventilation) or "proportional pressure support" or (proportional adj3 pressure adj3 support)).mp.
- 5 3 and 4

Appendix 6. CINAHL search strategy

- 1 (MH "Ventilator Weaning")
- 2 ((MH "Respiration, Artificial") OR (MH "Positive Pressure Ventilation+") OR (MH "Ventilators, Mechanical") OR (MH "Respiratory Mechanics") OR ventilat*) AND (wean* or liberat* or extubat*)
- 3 (1 or 2)
- 4 (MH "Therapy, Computer Assisted+")
- 5 (TX computer N3 assist*)
- 6 (TX proportion N3 assist*)
- 7 (TX automat* N3 system*)
- 8 (TX smart N3 care)
- 9 (TX smartcare OR automode OR nava OR intellivent)
- 10 (TX adaptive N3 support*)
- 11 (TX adaptive N3 assist*)
- 12 (TX mandatory N3 minute*)
- 13 (TX neurally N3 adjust*)
- 14 (TX volume N3 support N3 ventilation)
- 15 (TX proportional N3 pressure N3 support*)
- 16 (TX closed N3 loop)
- 17 (TX automat*)
- 18 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10 or 11 or 12 or 13 or 14 or 15 or 16 or 17
- 19 3 and 18
- 20 (MH "Randomized Controlled Trials") OR (MH "Double-Blind Studies") OR (MH "Single-Blind Studies") OR (MH "Triple-Blind Studies") OR (MH "Meta Analysis") OR (MH "Multicenter Studies") OR (MH "Random Sample")
- 21 (TX singl* N5 mask*) OR (TX doubl* N5 mask*) OR (TX tripl* N5 mask*) OR (TX trebl* N5 mask*)
- 22 (TX singl* N5 blind*) OR (TX doubl* N5 blind*) OR (TX tripl* N5 blind*) OR (TX trebl* N5 blind*)
- 23 (TX meta N5 analysis)

24 (TX rct OR rcts OR random* OR multicent* OR placebo* OR metanalysis* OR sham OR effectiveness OR efficacy OR compare*
 25 18 or 19 or 20 or 21 or 22
 26 17 and 23

Appendix 7. LILACS search strategy

“VENTILATOR” or “VENTILATION” or “VENTILATION-PERFUSION” or “VENTILATIONFOR” or “VENTILATIONIN” or “VENTILATIONS” or “VENTILATOR” or “VENTILATOR-ASSOCIATED” or “VENTILATOR-INDUCED” or “VENTILATORIA” or “VENTILATORIAMENTE” or “VENTILATORIAS” or “VENTILATORIES” or “VENTILATORIO” or “VENTILATORIODEPENDENTE” or “VENTILATORIOS” or “VENTILATORS” or “VENTILATORY” or “VENTILATORYSTRATEGIES” or “VENTILATORYTHRESHOLD” [Words] and “WEAN” or “WEANALYZED” or “WEANED” or “WEANER” or “WEANING” or “WEANLING” or “WEANNING” or “WEANS” or “WEANSO” and automated or automated/ or automates or automatic or automatic control or automatic control/ or automatically or automaticament or automaticamente or automaticidad or automaticidade or automatizados or automaticos or closed loop or smartcare or nava or computer or proportional or mandatory or neurally [Words]

Appendix 8. Study screening tool

Reviewer Initials	— —	Review Date _ / _ / _ (dd/mm/yy)		
Primary Author				
Citation (journal, year, vol, pg)				
Level of Review	Title and Abstract	Full text		
STUDY SELECTION				
Study Type	RCT	Yes	No	Uncertain
Population	Study patients received invasive mechanical ventilation	Yes	No	Uncertain
	Study patients received care in ICU or high-acuity unit	Yes	No	Uncertain
	Study patients \geq 4 weeks of age	Yes	No	Uncertain
Intervention	Automated weaning system	Yes	No	Uncertain
Comparison	Weaning without automated system (including protocolized or non-protocolized weaning)	Yes	No	Uncertain
Outcomes	Duration of weaning (insert definition)	Yes	No	Uncertain
Decision	Obtain full text for detailed screening	EXCLUDE		

(Continued)

Primary reason for exclusion	Study type
	Population
	Intervention
	Comparison group
	Outcomes

Appendix 9. Data extraction form

Data extraction form

Reviewer Initials	
Review Date (dd/mm/yy)	
Study ID	
Primary author	
Citation (journal, year, vol, pg)	
Confirm study eligibility	Yes No (if No, list reason for exclusion on screening tool)
Study type	Simple RCT Cluster RCT Factorial RCT

General Notes:
Participant inclusion criteria (please list):
Exclusion criteria (please list):

PARTICIPANTS

INTERVENTION:	N =	CONTROL:	N =
Age, mean (SD) med (IQR)		Age, mean (SD) med (IQR)	
Male n (%)		Male n (%)	
Name severity of illness measure (e.g. APACHE, SAPS, PELOD) mean (SD) med (IQR)		Name severity of illness measure (e.g. APACHE, SAPS, PELOD) mean (SD) med (IQR)	

Setting

Participating site country (ies):	
Academic hospital	
Non-teaching hospital	
Not reported	
Urban	
Regional	
Rural	
Mixed ICU	
MICU	
SICU	
Closed ICU structure	
Open ICU structure	
Not reported	
Nurse staffing for vent pts.	1:1 1:2 1:3 1:4 Not reported

(Continued)

Physician staffing (describe) Not reported	
---	--

INTERVENTION
Describe automated weaning system and protocol (verbatim)
Describe sedation strategies in intervention arm (tick all that apply): sedation score sedation protocol daily interruption not reported
CONTROL
Describe weaning method used for control group (verbatim)
Describe sedation strategies in control arm (tick all that apply): sedation score sedation protocol daily interruption not reported

OUTCOMES

PLEASE RECORD UNIT of MEASUREMENT for ALL OUTCOMES (days/hours)

INTERVENTION		CONTROL	
Study randomization to successful extubation		Study randomization to successful extubation	
n (%) mean (SD) median (IQR)		n (%) mean (SD) median (IQR)	
mean diff (95% CI, P value)		mean diff (95% CI, P value)	
Successful extubation/discontinuation of mechanical ventilation defined as no requirement for reintubation at (tick interval	24 hrs 48 hrs 72 hrs 96 hrs 7 days		

(Continued)

that applies)			
Study randomization to first extubation		Study randomization to first extubation	
n (%) mean (SD) median (IQR) mean diff (95% CI, P value)		n (%) mean (SD) median (IQR) mean diff (95% CI, P value)	
Intubation to successful extubation		Intubation to successful extubation	
n (%) mean (SD) median (IQR) mean diff (95% CI, P value)		n (%) mean (SD) median (IQR) mean diff (95% CI, P value)	
Intubation to study randomization		Intubation to study randomization	
n (%) mean (SD) median (IQR) mean diff (95% CI, P value)		n (%) mean (SD) median (IQR) mean diff (95% CI, P value)	
Satisfying extubation criteria and actual extubation		Satisfying extubation criteria and actual extubation	
n (%) mean (SD) median (IQR) mean diff (95% CI, P value)		n (%) mean (SD) median (IQR) mean diff (95% CI, P value)	
ICU length of stay		ICU length of stay	
n (%) mean (SD) median (IQR) mean diff (95% CI, P value)		n (%) mean (SD) median (IQR) mean diff (95% CI, P value)	
Hospital length of stay		Hospital length of stay	
n (%) mean (SD) median (IQR) mean diff (95% CI, P value)		n (%) mean (SD) median (IQR) mean diff (95% CI, P value)	

(Continued)

Mortality n/N (%) OR (95% CI, P value) ICU 28/30 day 60 day 90 day Hospital		Mortality n/N (%) OR (95% CI, P value) ICU 28/30 day 60 day 90 day Hospital	
Reintubation, n (%) OR (95% CI, P value)		Reintubation, n (%) OR (95% CI, P value)	
Self-extubation, n (%) OR (95% CI, P value)		Self-extubation, n (%) OR (95% CI, P value)	
Post-extubation NIV, n (%) OR (95% CI, P value)		Post-extubation NIV, n (%) OR (95% CI, P value)	
≥ 21 days vented, n (%) OR (95% CI, P value)		≥ 21 days vented, n (%) OR (95% CI, P value)	

CONCLUSIONS

Key Conclusions made by authors

PERSONAL COMMUNICATION

List any personal communication with authors & corresponding dates
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WHAT'S NEW

Last assessed as up-to-date: 30 September 2013.

Date	Event	Description
3 June 2014	New search has been performed	Review updated including search to 30 September 2013

(Continued)

3 June 2014	New citation required but conclusions have not changed	This review is an update of the previous Cochrane systematic review (Rose 2013). We found and included six new trials. In general our review reaches the same conclusions as our previous review that included 15 trials. However, we included more trials and thus have more precise estimates for the effects of automated systems on our primary and secondary outcomes
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HISTORY

Protocol first published: Issue 7, 2011

Review first published: Issue 6, 2013

Date	Event	Description
18 January 2012	Amended	Contact details updated.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF AUTHORS

Louise Rose (LR), Marcus J Schultz (MS), Chris R Cardwell (CC), Philippe Jouvett (PJ), Danny F McAuley (DM), Bronagh Blackwood (BB)

Conceiving the review: LR, BB

Co-ordinating the review: LR

Undertaking manual searches: LR, PJ

Screening search results: LR, PJ

Organizing retrieval of papers: LR

Screening retrieved papers against inclusion criteria: LR, PJ, DM (arbiter)

Appraising quality of papers: BB, MS, DM (arbiter)

Abstracting data from papers: BB, MS

Writing to authors of papers for additional information: LR

Providing additional data about papers: LR, BB

Obtaining and screening data on unpublished studies: LR, BB

Data management for the review: LR

Entering data into Review Manager (RevMan 5.2): LR

Automated versus non-automated weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation for critically ill adults and children (Review)

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RevMan statistical data: CC

Other statistical analysis not using RevMan: CC

Double entry of data: (data entered by person one: LR; data entered by person two: BB)

Interpretation of data: all authors

Statistical inferences: CC

Writing the review: LR, BB, all authors

Securing funding for the review: LR

Performing previous work that was the foundation of the present study: BB, CC (previous review that identified increased interest in automated studies)

Guarantor for the review (one author): LR

Person responsible for reading and checking review before submission: LR

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Bronagh Blackwood, Chris R Cardwell, Danny F McAuley: none known.

Louise Rose has completed an RCT comparing automated weaning using SmartCare/PS™ with usual care that was included in this systematic review. Dr Rose received no funding from Draeger Medical for this study. SmartCare/PS software, and associated technical upgrades for two ventilators, were provided free of charge to the Intensive Care Unit of The Royal Melbourne Hospital by Draeger Medical, Australia.

Marcus J Schultz received a research fund of EUR 12,000 for a study on weaning with ASV by Hamilton Medical, Switzerland. Hamilton Medical provided Professor Schultz's hospital research group with EUR 12,000 for performing a study of weaning with ASV in cardiac surgical patients. The money was used to buy equipment, a computer, statistician time, and to cover costs involved with the presentation of the results at a scientific meeting and publication of an article.

Philippe Juvet has completed an RCT comparing automated weaning using SmartCare/PS™ with usual care, included in this systematic review. Dr Juvet did not receive any funding from Draeger for this study though, for the purposes of the study, Draeger Medical provided one ventilator. Dr Juvet received two grants as support from Hamilton Medical for two clinical studies, including a prospective trial on automation of weaning with ASV in children (NCT01095406) and a clinical study on criteria for mechanical ventilation adjustments in children. These two studies were not eligible for inclusion in the systematic review. Dr Juvet also conducted a clinical trial on weaning with NAVA in infants (NCT00603174) that was not eligible for inclusion in the systematic review. Dr Juvet did not receive any funding from Maquet for this study though, for the purposes of the study, Maquet provided one ventilator.

SOURCES OF SUPPORT

Internal sources

- No sources of support supplied

External sources

- Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Canada, Other.
CIHR Knowledge Synthesis 2011 grant

INDEX TERMS

Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)

*Critical Illness; Intensive Care Units; Length of Stay; Randomized Controlled Trials as Topic; Respiration, Artificial [*methods; statistics & numerical data]; Time Factors; Ventilator Weaning [*methods; statistics & numerical data]

MeSH check words

Adult; Child; Humans